

Conservation of biological diversity of Carpathian Mountain grasslands in the Czech Republic through targeted application of new EU funding mechanisms
PIMS #2255

UNDP RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON THE GEF medium SIZE PROJECT BRIEF

Response to comments from GEF Secretariat

Comment 1: *Description and incorporation of lessons learned from other GEF projects national or regional is very weak. Please clarify*

Response:	Document reference:
<p>A new subsection „Lessons from relevant GEF activities and programmes“ is added in the Section 2. Project Design. It describes the relevant GEF projects currently implemented/planned by different GEF IAs. The proposed project will benefit from lessons and results of the mentioned projects especially in institutional capacity building, awareness building and securing sustainable conservation goals through Natura 2000 and agro-environmental programs. The project management team will liaise with the counterparts from other GEF projects in the region during the inception phase in order to analyze their experiences and lessons and incorporate them into the proposed project strategy and work plans.</p> <p>Besides these projects, in the area of Biele Karpaty, one of the pilot areas, there is traditionally a very strong co-operation with the local Slovak organizations in the field of nature and biodiversity protection and local development issues. Local organizations both on the Slovak and Czech side will be involved in the transfer and exchange of experience.</p>	<p>Section 2. Project Design. Lessons from relevant GEF activities and programmes in the region.</p>

Comment 2: Whereas the project document maintains that wide consultations were held during the PDF A process, it is not clear if actual contractual agreements with stakeholders in the local community have been realized. This may present difficulties in achieving local ownership of activities. Please clarify.

Response:	Document reference:
<p>As explained in the Section 5. „Stakeholder Involvement“, during PDF A local communities and farmers demonstrated a strong support to and ownership over the proposed project. Contractual/cooperation agreements with farmers will be facilitated and realized during the medium-sized project implementation within the EU funding programmes (non-GEF), when compensations are awarded (Activity 2.1.). A strong NGO „Foundation Partnership“ (Nadace Partnerství), which works closely with the local stakeholders in the pilot areas through its network of local NGOs, was approached beginning 2005 and a co-operation was agreed as expressed in the attached Commitment letter. The Foundation Partnership will cooperate with the project in outreaching local stakeholders.</p>	<p>Outcome 2. Activity 2.1</p> <p>Section 5. Stakeholder Involvement. Stakeholder/farmers involvement ANNEX 4: Public Participation Strategy and Final Pre-</p>

	selection of farmers
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Comment 3: Some confusion with respect to presentation of impact and outcome indicators and targets in results framework and monitoring plan. Please clarify.

Response:	Document reference:
The headings in the Monitoring plan were corrected (Annex 9).	ANNEX 9: Monitoring Plan

Comment 4: No co-funding leveraged from any NGO , local nor international, involvement and participation of non governmental organizations in the financing plan for this project also relatively weak. Has IA taken this into consideration?

Response:	Document reference:
Co-financing in kind leveraged from the NGO Foundation Partnership in total amount of 24,000 USD. The in-kind contribution will be provided in the form of expert work in field, especially for awareness raising activities and communication with farmers.	Section D. Financing : Financing plan, Budget
In addition, many activities and stakeholder consultations envisaged by the project will involve local NGOs. The most active NGOs involved in PLA management are listed in the project document: CSOP, WWF, Czech Society for Ornithology (Birdlife International). These NGOs will partner with the project.	

Comment 5: Project management costs not clearly indicated in the budget.

Response:	Document reference:
The project management costs are listed in the budget in more detail.	Section D. Financing . Budget

Comment 6: Coordination between Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment may be difficult. Ministry of Agriculture will implement project; a bulk of the co-financing will come from Ministry of Agriculture. Mainstreaming biodiversity into agricultural and production policy may be a challenge in this arrangement. How will IA ensure that effective collaboration occurs? Please clarify.

Response:	Document reference:
In the Czech Republic the cooperation of the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture in the area of the nature and biodiversity protection is traditionally good. The project arrangements are set up in a	Text added in the section “Implementation

way that facilitates the coordination between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment. The nomination of representatives of both ministries to the Steering committee enables the discussion and agreement supported by both ministries. The nominations on the level of decision makers enable the implementation of the recommendations and conclusion in the programming at both ministries.	Arrangements”.
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MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT PROPOSAL REQUEST FOR GEF FUNDING

AGENCY'S PROJECT ID: 2255
GEFSEC PROJECT ID: 1705
COUNTRY: Czech Republic
PROJECT TITLE: Conservation of biological diversity of Carpathian Mountain grasslands in the Czech Republic through targeted application of new EU funding mechanisms
GEF AGENCY: UNDP
OTHER EXECUTING AGENCY(IES): MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
DURATION: 2005-2007
GEF FOCAL AREA: Biodiversity
GEF OPERATIONAL PROGRAM: OP 4 Mountain Ecosystems
GEF STRATEGIC PRIORITY: BD 1 Catalysing sustainability in PAs
ESTIMATED STARTING DATE: 1.April 2005
IMPLEMENTING AGENCY FEE: 146,000

FINANCING PLAN (US\$)	
GEF PROJECT/COMPONENT	
Project	974,300
PDF A*	25,000
<i>Sub-Total GEF</i>	999,300
CO-FINANCING**	
GEF Agency	
Government	9,266,355
Bilateral	85,000
NGOs	24,000
Others	
<i>Sub-Total Co-financing:</i>	9,375,355
<i>Total Project Financing:</i>	10,374,655
FINANCING FOR ASSOCIATED ACTIVITY IF ANY:	

* Indicate approval date of PDF A 23 July 2002

** Details provided in the Financing Section

CONTRIBUTION TO KEY INDICATORS OF THE BUSINESS PLAN: As a demonstration project, only a fraction of the 33,000 ha of grasslands in the two PLAs will be directly affected by new management techniques. The strategic objective of the demonstration is enable the two PLAs to bring as much of their 33,000 ha in grasslands as possible into the most appropriate form of biodiversity friendly management. The long-term strategic goal of the project is to affect management of grasslands throughout the Carpathian Ecoregion by disseminating lessons learned and best practices throughout the existing network of government and NGO stakeholders.

RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT:

Mr. Michal Pastvinsky, GEF OFP, Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic Date: *December 3rd, 2004*

This proposal has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for a Medium-sized Project.

Yannick Glemarec
 Deputy Executive Coordinator
 Date: 12 April 2005

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PART I - PROJECT CONCEPT

A - SUMMARY

The aim of this project is to strengthen the conservation management of globally significant biodiversity in species-rich mountain grassland habitats (meadows and pastures) in two Protected Landscape Areas (PLA) in the Carpathian Mountains of the Czech Republic. This project will also enable the Czech Republic to begin meeting its obligations under the Carpathian Convention signed in May 2003 in Kiev.

B - COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

1. COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY

The Czech Republic ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity on December 4, 1993.

Project linkage to Implementing Agency program(s):

UNDP efforts have concentrated on building support for the application of sustainable development principles, through capacity building for environmental planning and management. As indicated in UNDP's Country Cooperation Framework for the Czech Republic, cooperation with the Ministry of Environment in the area of sustainable development and environmental management is a primary focus of the country programme.

UNDP is helping to strengthen the country's capacities to comply with global environmental commitments, including those in the area of biodiversity protection. The proposed project represents a significant government priority and is therefore an important intervention for UNDP support. It will be complemented by UNDP's overall programme in the Czech Republic aimed at building the capacity of the government to achieve environmentally sustainable development.

2. COUNTRY DRIVEN-NESS

Project linkage to national priorities, action plans, and programs:

The aim of this project is to strengthen the conservation management of globally significant biodiversity in species-rich mountain grassland habitats (meadows and pastures) in two Protected Landscape Areas (PLA) in the Carpathian Mountains of the Czech Republic. It will do this by drawing in, on a demonstration basis, targeted support from newly available EU funding opportunities for integrated rural development and making the lessons learned and best practices developed widely available for replication throughout the Czech PLA system and the Carpathian Eco region as a whole.

PLAs are extensive areas characterized by significant biological, natural, and cultural values, and are consistent with IUCN Category V protected areas. Landscape-scale conservation is a national priority governed by the Nature and Landscape Conservation Act (No. 114/1992 Co.), which established the national administrative system for a nation-wide system of PLAs. In total, there

are 24 PLAs in the Czech Republic, which together with four National Parks, comprise nearly 15% of Czech territory. The two PLAs included in this project, Bile Karpaty and Beskydy, hold some 13,360 ha of mountain grassland and are included in the Czech candidate list of Special Protection Areas under the EU Habitats Directive.

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) of the Czech Republic recognizes that intensive agriculture has directly contributed to the decline of biodiversity in mountain grasslands. It emphasizes the importance of the White Carpathians (Bile Karpaty) as a region where traditional farming methods have preserved botanically rich grasslands, though it also points out that the affected areas are relatively small and increasingly under threat.

The proposed project will address mountain grassland conservation priorities, as identified in the NBSAP, as well as assist in achieving one of the main objectives of the State Programme for Nature and Landscape Protection (1998), which is to reconvert arable land to pastures and grasslands. It will also directly contribute to the overall objective of State Environmental Policy (2001), which reflects the priorities set out in the EC Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the “Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna”, by improving environmental quality in the Czech Republic and implementing the principles of sustainable development.

The proposed project will also address priorities identified in the following national policies, plans and programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture such as: Horizontal Rural Development Plan (HRDP) which defines acceptable or eligible agro-environmental measures; and the Operational Programme on “Rural Development and Multifunctional Agriculture”(January 2004). However, as a result of Czech accession to the EU, these programmes will be amended over the next three years and this project will provide the necessary information on developing sustainable farming and rural development.

This project will also enable the Czech Republic to begin meeting its obligations under the Carpathian Convention signed in May 2003 in Kiev. The project adheres to the objectives of Article 4 of the Convention “Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity,” particularly Point 1: “The Parties shall pursue policies aiming at conservation, sustainable use and restoration of biological and landscape diversity throughout the Carpathians. The Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure a high level of protection and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats, their continuity and connectivity, and species of flora and fauna characteristic of the Carpathians, in particular the protection of endangered species, endemic species and large carnivores.” The project also addresses Point 1, Article 7 “Sustainable agriculture and forestry”: “The Parties shall maintain the management of land traditionally cultivated in a sustainable manner, and take appropriate measures in designing and implementing their agricultural policies, taking into account the need for protection of mountain ecosystems and landscapes, the importance of biological diversity, and the specific conditions of mountains as less favored areas.”

Finally, the project will make a significant contribution to assisting the Czech Republic to meet its commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, especially in terms of preventing further loss or degradation of mountain grasslands and their biodiversity, developing local

capacity and increasing awareness among farmers and the wider community of the biodiversity value of species and habitats under their management or use

C – PROGRAM AND POLICY CONFORMITY

1. PROGRAM DESIGNATION AND CONFORMITY

Linkage to GEF Priorities

The project meets GEF eligibility criteria under Operational Program #4 Mountain Ecosystems. The project promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems. Threats to biodiversity will be removed in targeted areas by mainstreaming biodiversity protection with socio-economic goals¹. The end-of-project situation will show sectoral integration in the management and conservation of project sites². Project activities include expanding a system of conservation areas³, remedial actions in areas under threat⁴, and sustainable use and awareness components⁵. It has built-in mechanisms for monitoring outcomes, both in terms of ecosystem structure/function and sustainable use by local populations⁶. Finally, project risks have been minimized by applying best practice and best available knowledge and by ensuring that local communities share the conservation objectives of the GEF project⁷.

The project falls under Biodiversity Strategic Priority BD1 – Catalysing the sustainability of protected area systems, with a focus on areas designated for protection of their traditional managed landscape features. It promotes on-the ground activities directly focusing on areas of high global biodiversity and will also take steps to ensure replication of best practices and lessons learned to other areas of the Czech Republic and the Carpathian Eco region (covering Slovakia, Romania, Poland, Hungary, Ukraine as well as Czech Republic). The project will develop the capacities of a broad group of stakeholders with the aim of establishing strong functional partnerships around the ecologically sustainable production and marketing of products generated from mountain grassland management. Stakeholder partners include: farmers, communal landowners, marketing cooperatives, the Czech Republic's agricultural certification institution, government Ministries and their local offices. These partnerships will also enable landowners to access EU financial support programmes oriented toward maintenance of traditional landscapes. As such, the GEF grant will facilitate leveraging substantial funding to capture biodiversity and ecologically sustainable productive system benefits.

A key project goal is the integration of biodiversity principles and objectives into agricultural and forestry policy and management in the Protected Landscape Areas. This is also in line with the Millennium Goal adopted by the Pan European Environment Ministers to halt the loss of

¹ In accordance with GEF-OP4 criteria; see GEF-OP4; para 4.8

² In accordance with GEF-OP4 criteria; see GEF-OP4; para 4.15

³ In accordance with GEF-OP4 criteria; see GEF-OP4; para 4.17 (a)

⁴ In accordance with GEF-OP4 criteria; see GEF-OP4; para 4.17 (c)

⁵ In accordance with GEF-OP4 criteria; see GEF-OP4; para 4.17 (l)

⁶ In accordance with GEF-OP4 criteria; see GEF-OP4; para 4.12

⁷ In accordance with GEF-OP4 criteria; see GEF-OP4; para 4.19 (a) and (c)

biodiversity by 2010, and the EU objectives and targets for this set out in the Malahide Message of May 2004: *Halting the decline of biodiversity - priority objectives and targets for 2010*.

2. PROJECT DESIGN

Project Rationale and Objective

The objective of this project is to strengthen the conservation management of globally significant biodiversity in species-rich mountain grassland habitats (grasslands and pastures) in two Protected Landscape Areas (PLA) in the Carpathian Mountains of the Czech Republic.

The project will address the objective chiefly by drawing in, on a demonstration basis, targeted support from newly available EU funding opportunities for integrated rural development (principally CAP support payments and Natura 2000/LIFE programme grants) and making the lessons learned and best practices developed widely available for replication throughout the Czech PLA system and the Carpathian Eco region as a whole.

The project will establish priority locations for mountain grassland biodiversity conservation in two PLAs and define the management measures required for them. Where appropriate, the project will assist landowner-based management (grazing, cutting or a combination of these) of mountain grassland biotopes based on newly available EU financial support mechanisms (principally CAP support payments and Natura 2000/LIFE programme grants). In this regard, the project is designed to test and validate the assumption that existing and future EU financial support mechanisms, properly oriented, will sufficiently offset the additional costs that landowners incur when managing the more inaccessible, biodiversity-rich mountain grassland habitats that they will happily participate in PLA-designed grassland management plans. GEF funding will be targeted to developing the initial capacity to identify the most valuable mountain grassland areas, gain and share expertise in securing EU funding for grassland management projects, monitoring the outcomes of management, and disseminating the knowledge among others involved in mountain grassland management, particularly Parties to the Carpathian Convention.

By the end of the project, the PLA will be able to work effectively with private, communal and state landowners (farmers, local authorities and statutory agencies such as the Forest Administration) through training, joint management and collaborative monitoring activities towards the goal of conserving mountain grassland biodiversity. It will also provide tangible results that will enable the EU financial support mechanisms to be fine-tuned at a national level to strengthen their applicability for mountain grassland conservation.

Environmental Context and Biodiversity Values

Europe's largest mountain range, the Carpathians, extends in altitude from 300 to 2,665 meters above sea level and is home to a remarkable diversity of species and habitats. The diverse geology, topography and climate of the Carpathians have enabled a rich differentiation of habitat types and vegetation communities. The global biodiversity significance of the Carpathian Eco region is established by its status as a WWF Global 200 site.

Carpathian meadows (smallish areas mainly used for haymaking) and pastures (principally used for extensive grazing) are particularly diverse in terms of species numbers, as well as endemic and rare species, and occur as part of the broader biologically diverse mosaic of forested, mountain landscape. Studies have shown that Carpathian grasslands are among the richest grassland biotopes in Europe (Klimes, L., 1995, 1997): up to 130 species of vascular plants may grow in an area of only 25 m². The high biodiversity of mountain grasslands is a direct result of hundreds of years of traditional management and animal husbandry – indeed, most mountain grasslands are anthropogenic in origin. Survival of a great number of grassland species depends on land management practices that imitate, replicate or otherwise mimic the grazing and/or mowing activities historically associated with centuries-old traditional practices, but they are increasingly under threat..

This project will work in two Protected Landscape Areas (PLAs) - Bile Karpaty and Beskydy (see map on following page). Both are included as candidate Special Protection Areas in the Czech Natura 2000 network. Together, the two effectively cover most of the Czech portion of the Carpathian Eco region. Both sites are identified by WWF as important large-scale wildlife sites and therefore priority areas for biodiversity conservation (WWF, Carpathian Ecosystem Initiative, 2001). Combined, the two sites represent the full range of grassland habitat diversity, from lower, warmer slopes to high alpine zones.

Bile Karpaty is located in the western corner of the Carpathians and comprises a rolling mosaic of grasslands, orchards, fields and forests. It covers an area of 715 km² along the Czech-Slovak border, and is contiguous to a Slovak PLA (also called Bile Karpaty in Slovak). Designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1996, Bile Karpaty is considered to be of high global and regional biodiversity value (*WWF, Carpathian Eco region Initiative, 2001*) due to its unique geographical location at the crossroads of three floral provinces: Pannonian, Carpathian and Hercynian. Especially significant are the species-rich grasslands with scattered trees. There are 15,000 ha of grasslands, of which 4,000 ha are at various stages of degradation; 1,321 ha are in excellent condition and form the basis for 53 small Specially Protected Areas. The management of these sites will serve as a basis for designing management regimes elsewhere to halt and reverse the current trend of biodiversity loss.

The latest floristic research in PLA Bile Karpaty has shown it holds 1,500 species of vascular plants, of which 30 were previously thought to be extinct or missing. There are a total of 103 protected species of vascular plants (Directive 395/1992 Coll.), of which 27 are critically endangered, 37 strongly endangered and 39 endangered; 16 grassland species are classified as globally critically endangered in the IUCN Red List including *Gentianella lutescens subsp. carpatica*, *Gladiolus palustris* and *Cypripedium calceolus* (see ANNEX 1 and ANNEX 6 for detailed information).

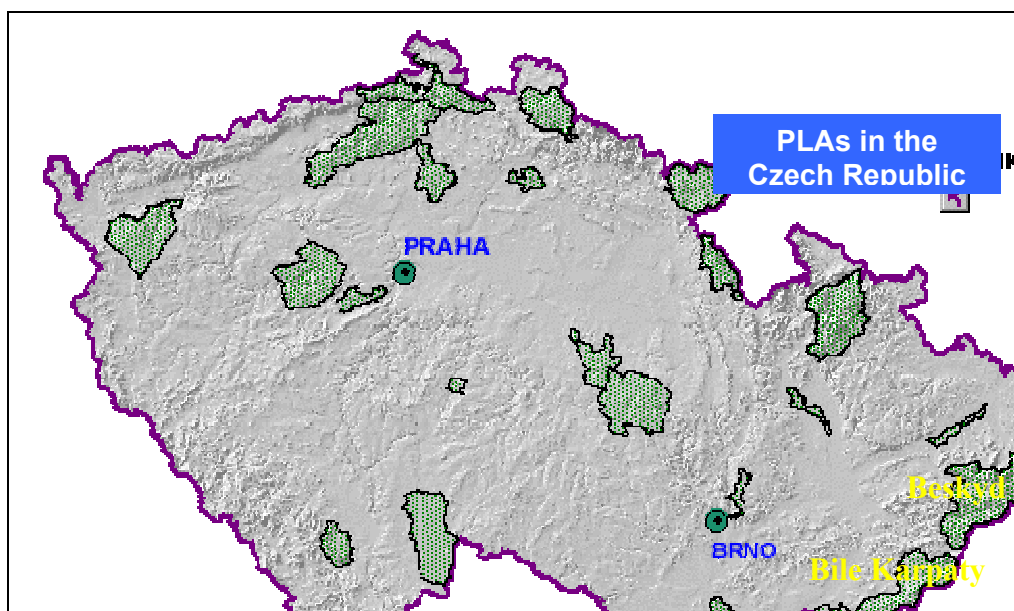
They provide refuge for a number of birds that are declining throughout Europe, including corncrake (*Crex crex*), meadow pipit (*Anthus pratensis*), and corn bunting (*Miliaria calandra*). A common bird of prey throughout the area is the honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*), thriving on a rich supply of bees and wasps provided by the meadows.

The flower meadows are rich in butterflies, with *Colias myrmidone*, *Brenthis hecate*, *Maculinea alcon*, *M. arion*, and *Lopinga achine* as the most typical species. Rare invertebrates include preying mantis (*Mantis religiosa*), the harvestmen *Zacheus crista* and *Egaenus convexus*, the crab spider *Atypus piceus*, and the buprestid beetle *Anthaxia hungarica*. The grassland sites in the southwest are notable for the common presence of the orb-web spider *Argiope bruennichi*.

Beskydy PLA covers an area of 1,160 km² and is the largest Protected Landscape Area in the Czech Republic. It borders similar protected landscape areas in Slovakia and Poland. Although Beskydy is a predominantly wooded massif with remains of pristine mixed forest stands (Mionoší, Bumbálka and Razula), there are 186 km² of grasslands and 43 small Specially Protected Areas, which require distinct management regimes. Indigenous plant communities are or are becoming endangered in Beskydy. There are five critically endangered taxa (C1), at least 27 strongly endangered taxa (C2), at least 26 endangered taxa (C3) and several dozen requiring increased attention (C4). One of the endangered taxa, *Aconitum firmum* subsp. *moravicum*, is a West-Carpathian endemic only known from three or four sites at Beskydy.

Beskydy is the only place in the Czech Republic where endangered large mammals such as the wolf (*Canis lupus*), brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) and Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) still occur. The area is recognised as having very high biodiversity value on a global and regional scale (*WWF, Carpathian Eco region Initiative, 2001*), and is classified as an “Important Bird Area”, in which an increase in the numbers of Corncrake (*Crex crex*) in grasslands has been recorded in recent years.

Beskydy is also included in the European Ecological Network or EECNET, which seeks to create a common European network for ensuring protection, rehabilitation and development of ecosystems and landscapes of continental importance integrated with other categories of use.



BASELINE – CURRENT SITUATION

CORE PROBLEM AND PRIMARY THREAT

The *core problem* to be addressed by this project is the loss of biodiversity in Carpathian mountain grasslands of the Czech Republic.

Grassland habitat degradation and loss is the *primary threat* causing this problem. Species composition and other ecological characteristics of this habitat type are a direct result of traditional grazing and/or mowing practised by farmers for many centuries; originally the grasslands would have occurred as patches along rivers, on cliffs or in forest glades kept open by wild herbivores that are now extinct. The result of managed, domestic livestock-grassland interactions has been high species richness and the concentration of a high number of endemic and rare species on relatively small plots of land. A number of studies in the Carpathians have shown that a decrease in or cessation of human interventions such as sheep grazing results in overgrowth of dominant species, degradation of mountain grassland habitats, and diminished diversity at the landscape/ecosystem, habitat and species levels.

ROOT CAUSES OF PRIMARY THREAT

Habitat degradation and loss is driven by a number of *root causes* including:

- The withdrawal of grazers and browsers (sheep and goats) from upland pastures as a result of collectivisation and continuing low economic returns;
- A forest bias in certain land uses as a result of government policies not yet in tune with pan-European practice.
- Abandonment of meadows or introduction of more intensive practices such as application of mineral fertilizers and reseeded with mono-specific grass again in response to economic changes;
- Physical disturbance, soil compaction and erosion, and flower-picking from heavily-visited areas as tourism increases;

This project focuses on the first two of these root causes since they have the most widespread impact.

Removal of grazers and browsers from upland pastures

Historically, mountain livestock raising was an important component of Carpathian culture throughout the eco-region. The combination of extensive grazing and regular mowing of grasslands shaped the landscape that is still visible today. After the Second World War, the promotion of intensive collectivised agriculture destroyed the traditional farm-family basis of the rural economy, significantly reducing the number of cattle, sheep and goats in mountain and sub-

mountain areas. Large areas of lowland grasslands were destroyed by ploughing, sowing of non-native species and/or over-fertilization. Upland areas were generally inaccessible to farm machinery and intensification, and were thus abandoned, removing grazers from the grasslands. Such abandonment allowed the invasion of a few species of more vigorous tall plants and shrubs that shaded out the wide variety of species in the ground layer (many of them rare and/or endemic). This in turn led to significant changes to the landscape mosaic. Restoration of these grasslands to their original biological richness will require human intervention such as clearing of overgrowth, livestock grazing, and/or periodic mowing.

While collectivised agriculture was the principal cause of the abandonment of upland grasslands, the land remains abandoned even now, fifteen years after collectivisation ended, because it is no longer profitable for the average farmer to continue to utilize these upland grasslands given low market incentives and the current costs of time/labour and transport, as well as one-time costs associated with fencing and procuring additional animals. Block A cost-benefit assessments indicated that effective reorientation and application of the subsidy regime existing prior to EU accession, combined with income derived from traditional local marketing practices, would be sufficient to more than offset the costs of farmer-based management of upland grassland systems. Unfortunately, the subsidy system comprised disparate programs implemented by different Ministries and institutions – a system that few farmers had the technical capacity to comprehend fully and utilize effectively. A similar situation is expected to occur after EU accession.

To address this problem as well as conserve the globally significant biodiversity of Carpathian mountain grasslands, accessible financial incentives are needed to restore appropriate grazing regimes on upland grasslands so that the habitats and species typical of traditionally managed mountain grasslands are maintained. Furthermore, it has to be recognised that since farmers respond to market requirements they cannot be expected to guarantee alone the desired grazing and related grassland management regimes over the long term. Therefore, the incentives have to be flexible and graduated according to the particular management objectives and needs determined for each unit of mountain grassland.

In this regard, sheep and goat grazing was tested as the approach to conserve biodiversity on mountain grasslands in an experiment between 1994 and 1999 in Krkonose National Park. The experiment showed that, provided the number of livestock was proportional to the area and quantity of biomass, they had a positive influence on vegetation composition (the overall number of plant species increased) by reducing the spread of aggressive species such as *Polygonum bistorta*. Furthermore the sheep adapted to all plant species including docks, nettles and cane. In addition, sheep and goats are suited to the steep terrain and cause less damage to turf, thus limiting erosion. They can also survive on the lower nutritional value provided by rough pasture. Sheep are relatively small and cut the grass short, supporting the growth of carpet-forming herbs. Goats are browsers and tend to select one favoured plant species; they are able to graze at higher altitudes than sheep.

Forest bias in certain land uses

Current conventional land management in the Czech Republic focuses on forests to the detriment of grasslands and other habitat types. This bias stems from three factors: first, *many farmers receive subsidies from the State Forestry Department to encourage forest growth on grasslands* set aside for this purpose. If this occurs within a PLA, it requires the approval of the PLA administration, which is only given after a botanical survey has taken place. In addition, the PLA recommends the planting of mixed cultures (spruce/beech), which is more expensive than monocultural spruce plantation. Unfortunately, the planting of monoculture spruce stands is a common choice, a reflection of the fact that the forest subsidy system does not reward plantation of mixed stands. In Beskydy, on average, 15-20 farmers apply every year for re-forestation subsidies for an average area of two ha per farmer. This is only a low-level threat to upland grassland biodiversity, since these plantings must be approved in advance by the PLA authorities. But, they serve to highlight the fact that farmers are not able to apply for “re-diversification” subsidies or conservation payments to support grassland biodiversity management. If grasslands were considered to be an important part of this forest-mountain landscape, this could change. The project will address this kind of bias by highlighting the importance of grassland habitats and by piloting grazing-based management of grasslands.

A second factor biasing land management in favour of forestry is that *grasslands are largely ignored when it comes to management policy and practice* within the productive sector. For example, the State Forest Administration (SFA) inaccurately designates areas as forest in the PLAs, triggering forest-specific management actions for these areas. In Beskydy PLA, the SFA mistakenly reclassified the Radhost-Pustevny grassland site (3 km long and 200m wide) along with valuable juniper pastures as forests on their new maps, resulting in inappropriate management measures being applied to these areas. Areas overgrown with bushes and trees are considered as forest or as area to be forested by the Forest Administration without any further environmental consideration. The existing law does not allow grazing in forest areas; hence it is necessary to go through an expensive administrative process to attain special exemption in order to restore grassland habitats that have been erroneously classified as forest.

Agricultural Practice in the Project Areas

Pasturing is found mainly in the northern and central parts of Bile Karpaty (Kopanice, Jizni Valassko), especially in areas unsuitable for mowing. Grasslands in the southern parts are lower and are mostly mowed for their hay. Both the Beskydy and Bile Karpaty PLAs are attempting to manage pastures to some degree in an attempt to limit the overgrowth of dominant species and the decline in species diversity. Furthermore, the Bile Karpaty PLA is creating new pastures and grasslands by clearing brush and trees and planting native grass seed mixtures to expand existing areas. The problem of overgrowth is different in Bile Karpaty than in Beskydy and so slightly different management approaches are taken in each.

Beskydy

The Beskydy PLA was established in 1973. It has a total area of 116,000 ha, which makes it the largest protected area in the Czech Republic. There are some 18,700 ha of grasslands (nearly 16% of the total agricultural lands within the PLA), of which about one third are estimated to be grazed. The remaining grasslands are not grazed or managed. These neglected pastures are mainly located on inaccessible areas such as ridgelines and steep slopes.

Beskydy is divided into four zones of protection and sustainable use. Zones I and II afford the highest level of protection and encompass the highest priority sites within the PLA. Activities in Zones III and IV focus more on sustainable use. Currently 150 ha out of 513 ha (40%) of Zone I are actively managed (grazed or mowed) and about 1,450 ha out of 2,150 ha (67%) are grazed in Zone II. In 2002, the PLA could afford to manage only 63 ha in Zone I and 7,000 ha in Zone II (and then most of the resources went to small grasslands and pastures in Zone I).

Small family farms predominate in Beskydy. Most manage sheep and goats for their own consumption. In 2001, there were 186 farmers registered with more than 2,100 ewes. The number of farmers with more than 10 ewes was 63, out of which only 10 had more than 30 ewes. There is only one goat farmer (with 50 goats) registered in Beskydy.

There are only two certified organic farmers in Beskydy, but most farmers *de facto* practice organic methods because they cannot afford artificial fertilizers and pesticides. Farms that have been certified have not been able to realize any additional profit because markets for these products have not been identified or developed. Farmers are able to sell as many of their lambs to meat processing companies as they care to sell. The prices currently reach CZK 45-50 (€1.4; \$1.6) per kg of live weight. In this way, combined with agricultural subsidies, farmers are able to make a living. But in order to improve the farm economy markedly in this area, farmers would have to develop a more effective way to cooperate in the marketing of their products, in order to attract the interest of larger buyers. The question of farm economy improvement is related more to the question of how to make farmer-based management more sustainable in the long-term, even with significant subsidies and conservation payments.

Bile Karpaty

Bile Karpaty PLA was established in 1980, and was designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1996. The total area is 71,500 ha, of which 15,000 ha are grasslands. The grazed areas are estimated at about 10,000 ha (mostly grazed by cattle), 7,000 ha of which are located in Zones I and II. Neglected pastures are distributed across the PLA and tend to be smaller areas.

Farms in Bile Karpaty range from small family plots to large commercial ventures. Most have been certified as organic. There are about 283 farmers with a total of about 2,200 sheep in Bile Karpaty. They are able to make a decent living by simply selling their production to neighbours,

local buyers and in some instances, slaughterhouses and food stores. Most farmers sell live animals to customers like Carrefour, Kostelec slaughterhouse and several restaurants in the region. Sales are occasional and not organized. The farmers arrange them individually based on prevailing circumstances. Prices range between CZK 40-55 (€1.4; \$1.6) per kg. The total sale for 2002 was estimated to be 400 head. There is only one farmer who raises sheep for milk production, producing 4 kg of cheese per day. He has no difficulty selling his entire production to neighbours and tourists. Prices range between CZK 140-150 (€4.4; \$5.3) per kg.

Baseline – Programmes

The working assumption of this project is that the new EU financial incentives on offer following the accession of the Czech republic in May 2004, properly applied and reinforced by adequate capacity building, planning and monitoring, will be sufficient to encourage landowners to participate in mountain grassland conservation management in the two PLAs. The validity of this assumption was tested during Block A investigations and appeared to be sound. The GEF funding will be applied to initiate and accelerate the process, so that further loss and degradation of global biodiversity is halted as soon as possible. The project will be implemented using the PLA administrations, MoE and MoA as the institutional platforms, and engaging the key stakeholders (landowners, local communities, scientists). The current situation, obstacles and opportunities are described in more detail in this section.

Protected Landscape Area Management Baseline

The Protected Landscape Area (PLA) designation was introduced during the socialist period, when PLAs were the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture and had virtually no power to influence decisions on landscape management. PLA management was very limited due to lack of staff and finances. Activities were limited mostly to monitoring. Actual fieldwork, if any, was done by voluntary organizations such as the Czech Union for Nature Conservation (CSOP) and the NGO, Brontosaurus.

In 1992, the Czech Government passed the Nature and Landscape Conservation Act (No. 114). The Act:

- transferred PLAs to the Ministry of Environment and strengthened PLA authority over land-use decisions by giving each PLA special state administrative responsibilities in combination with assessment activities;
- requires that each PLA be zoned for different levels of conservation and sustainable use;
- calls for the development of management plans and conservation strategies for each PLA. Each plan is intended to be a basis for land planning, forest management and other planning documents;

- calls for other state-funded programmes to contribute and cooperate with PLA management (e.g. the Program for Landscape Management, and the River System Revitalization Program).

The PLA land-use designation was established in the Czech Republic in recognition of the many areas of the country that were important for both natural and cultural attributes. The purpose of each PLA is to conserve the link between the natural and the cultural, thereby preserving each unique landscape area. There are 24 PLAs in the Czech Republic covering 13% of the country. As part of the Ministry of Environment, the Administration of Protected Landscape Areas (APLA) is based in Prague. The APLA is responsible for ensuring the proper management of each PLA and distributes State funding to each PLA.

Each PLA receives an annual budget for management and monitoring. However, the budgets are unpredictable and inadequate resulting in an *ad hoc* type of approach by the PLA to grassland management. For example, Bile Karpaty and Beskydy PLAs have resources to manage reliably only the smallest priority sites of 40-50 ha in size. Moreover, monitoring activities are almost completely non-systematic and diffuse. There is no separate budget or programme for monitoring. Rather it is done almost entirely on the basis of personal ad-hoc interests of PLA staff, and university researchers and NGOs.

Discussions during PDF A implementation with national and local level PLA stakeholders revealed that the participation of these stakeholders in decision-making is usually very limited and that most are unaware of landscape management principles, the biodiversity value of the area or their role and responsibilities in maintaining it. Although there are annual meetings between the respective PLA and local mayors to introduce PLA activities and new subsidy payments, these meetings are not open to the public and information is not disseminated well from the mayors to local communities. PLA authorities have no public relations programmes or activities to build relationships and develop capacities of farmers and the wider community to support PLAs.

As a result, *PLA administrations do not plan or manage adequately for mountain grassland habitat diversity*. Effective management of PLAs, with their sustainable use mandate and many stakeholders (land owners, resource managers, tourists, farmers), requires a number of skills, techniques, staffing and knowledge that existing PLA administrations do not currently have. Knowledge, experiential and capacity barriers prevent PLA administrations from effectively harnessing the cross-sectoral resources that may already be available, because they do not understand how to do so. For example, the implementation of agro-environmental schemes as an approach to biodiversity conservation is a relatively new concept and a challenge for PLA administrations to take forward as the management of protected areas already suffers from a lack of funds and human resources. The development of cross-sectoral partnerships to integrate biodiversity into productive sector practices is another new challenge that PLA administrations are not yet equipped to meet.

As part of the national Natura 2000 network, the PLAs will be eligible to apply for LIFE (Nature) funding for site management projects. In this respect in 2004, an EU-funded project on “Implementation of Natura 2000 in the Czech Republic” commenced, with the following main objectives:

- The relevant staff from the protected areas adequately trained in the technical and practical managerial skills required for the practical management of Natura 2000 sites (specially the development of communication and negotiation skills with local stakeholders)
- Greater awareness among the local communities of the importance of nature conservation and the purpose of the NATURA 2000 network
- Increase of the trans-boundary co-operation in Natura 2000 matters in the Czech Republic.

Thus, the GEF project will have a high degree of complementarity with this project.

PASTORAL AGRICULTURE

The centuries-old agricultural practices that produced and maintained the traditional landscape of grassland and forest patches in the Czech Carpathians were virtually halted during collectivisation. The result has been the progressive loss of variability within the landscape mosaic. This trend continued in the 1990s after the old subsidy system collapsed; many of the areas, especially those situated in the higher elevations, have not been managed since 1989. Historical maps and records as well as aerial photographs from as early as 1937 show extensive grasslands comprising up to 80% of the landscape in areas of the project sites. Today, the situation is reversed – 80% of the landscape is forested and 20% is grassland. Many mountain grasslands, considered the most valuable biotopes in the Czech Republic, are overgrown by dominant grasses and trees and an enormous number of the original semi-natural grasslands have disappeared.

This decline in landscape variability has been driven by deterioration of the agricultural sector. Farm income has suffered in the past decade from weak markets for farm goods and the post-transition decrease in agricultural subsidies during the 1990s, causing a massive reduction in agriculture employment throughout the Czech Republic, where it has shrunk by 75% since 1989. The privatization of Czech agriculture has proceeded slowly; the process of returning land to its previous owners has been particularly slow, caused in part by uncertainties over property rights. While these are being resolved, it has stymied innovation and the adoption of new practices. Farmers, in general, lack the knowledge, skills and organization necessary for cost-efficient production and marketing for organic, specialty and other kinds of high-value, niche markets.

Farms in the project area are poor, given the relatively low productivity of traditionally managed “marginal” mountain grasslands and the relatively low prices for most relevant agricultural

products. The average farm family within the project site has two-three children and farms their land part-time, having to work in nearby non-farm jobs to supplement their incomes.

Concurrent with these changes on the ground have been substantial changes in agricultural policy as the Czech Republic prepared to accede to the EU on May 1, 2004. This transformation of Czech agricultural policy will eventually impact the landscapes of Beskydy and Bile Karpaty, though the outcome is uncertain. The EU Common Agricultural Policy is multifaceted and its influence upon the agricultural landscape of the Czech Carpathians will be complex and often contradictory. On the one hand, EU influence will serve to more rapidly modernize Czech farms in more ecologically favoured agricultural regions in terms of their mechanization, productivity, and intensity of land use. On the other, EU agricultural policy has de-linked subsidies from production and increasingly emphasizes sustainable rural development, the maintenance of traditional landscapes, and the adoption of environmentally friendly technologies.

Post EU-Accession Agricultural Support Systems

With accession to the EU in May 2004, the Czech Republic's agricultural subsidy and payment system adopted the EU division into (i) direct payments and (ii) support under the Horizontal Rural Development Plan (HRDP).

Direct payments

EU Agricultural policy provides for direct payments to farmers for sheep and goat farming. These payments, like other direct payments from the EU, will be phased in starting at 25% of the EU level and increasing by 5% per annum until they reach 100% parity in 2013 with EU-wide payments. The direct payments will be as follows (€1 = CZK 32.7; \$1.18 in May 2004):

- Production payments: for meat production, €21 (\$24.8) per ewe or goat; for milk production, €16.8 (\$19.8) per ewe.
- National top-up: the purpose of this payment is to cushion the lower EU production payments in new accession countries. In the Czech Republic, the government will top-up direct production payments at CZK700 (€21.4; \$25.3) per ewe in 2004.
- Supplemental payment within Less Favoured Areas (LFA): €7 (\$8.3) per ewe (50% of a farm's production area must be located inside an LFA).

Payments under the HRDP

The HRDP establishes priorities for Government and EU agriculture and rural area development assistance. The plan gives significant weight to agro-environmental measures that are relevant to forestry, technical assistance and producer communities in Beskydy and Bile Karpaty to enhance rural development in a sustainable way and to conserve high value habitats in the agricultural environment. These measures are set out below.

- LFA with environmental restrictions focuses on farms operating in LFA with environmental restrictions, such as mountain grasslands in zones 1 and 2 of Protected Landscape Areas. Farmers who are eligible and signed-up will receive CZK 3,300 (€101; \$119) per ha for mountain areas or CZK 2,950 (€90; \$102) per ha for other lower grassland areas, depending upon the productivity of the land.
- Agro-environmental/pasture management contracts a farmer for a five-year period to follow certain rules, methodologies and practices, depending upon the desired impact and the type of area and practice he chooses. The rules, methodologies and practices are essential to the effectiveness and success of this programme and there is little experience with developing these in the Czech Republic. The agro-environmental programme contains the following sub-programmes:
 - (a) Organic agriculture: under this option, payments are made to farmers who are certified organic in their agricultural practices. For grassland management, this payment is CZK 1,000 (€30; \$36) per ha.
 - (b) Whole farm sub-measurement: under this programme the farmer chooses which kind of land management practice he would like to pursue, for example, arable land management, grass ridges, management of grasslands (grasslands: CZK 1,970 (€60; \$71) per ha; pastures: CZK 3,290 (€101; \$119) per ha; grasslands without the forage production: CZK 3,450 (€105; \$124) per ha)
 - (c) Landscape management payments: this programme is focused on micro-habitat enhancement within a typical farm area. The most relevant option for mountain grasslands are: fencing of valuable localities in pastures (CZK 1200 (€37; \$43) per 100m) and conservation of bird sites on grasslands (for corncrakes, CZK 3,500 (€107; \$126) per ha).

Implementation of EU Agricultural Support Systems

During the pre-accession process, new laws and policies were relatively quickly put in place. Actual practice has been much slower to respond. With the Czech Republic's accession to the EU, there will now be a long period of adjustment and change as policies and payment programs are gradually implemented and long-standing practices, attitudes and expectations evolve. Nor will the EU CAP itself remain unchanged; at present it focuses on direct payment for agricultural production and, at the opposite end of the spectrum, on the agro-environmental functions of agriculture, including conservation payments. However, this system and more specifically the proportion between the two types of payments are under discussion and it is suggested that direct conservation payments could predominate in the future.

Meanwhile, there is a great deal of work to be done in moving from the system of old subsidies to the new system. According to MoA and MoE data, approximately US\$ 9 million were spent annually on subsidizing agricultural production within Beskydy and Bile Karpaty under the pre-accession system, of which some US\$ 400,000 per year was spent by MoE for conservation

management. This level is likely to drop slightly during the first few years of EU payments, but will grow significantly as the EU payments increase by 5% per annum.

However, while these new policies hold potential for the agricultural sector in the Czech Republic to develop effective ways to apply agro-environmental measures to biodiversity conservation in mountain areas, it must be recognised that current subsidies are related to the number of hectares or animals and do not focus on promoting biodiversity conservation or landscape diversity per se. To achieve such goals will require that institutions re-think their approaches to agricultural development. The Czech MoA's primary focus is on agricultural production; it has little experience with developing and applying effective conservation payment programs, though it is gradually expanding its perspective to include this.

Forest Management

Forest management within the PLAs is the responsibility of the SFA. This presents challenges for cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation, given that proper forest management is crucial to effective management of landscapes within each PLA. SFA managers and corresponding PLA managers communicate on a regular basis but the effectiveness of this communication could be improved. The PLA reviews and provides input to the annual forest management plan developed for each SFA district that overlaps with the PLA, though the PLA principally influences the management of Zones 1 and 2 within the PLA. PLAs also liaise with the responsible forest manager in case of municipal or private ownership of forests within the PLA.

The main principles of forest management in the Czech Republic are: sustainable forest management, increasing environmental stability of forests, increasing biodiversity, environmentally friendly forest management, increasing the share of natural forest reproduction and share of deciduous trees. There is an increasing focus on non-market functions of forests. While these are sound principles and represent a promising trend, forest management in protected landscapes, as described in the threats/root causes section, does not adequately consider landscape-scale habitat diversity and the importance of grassland biotopes.

Local Communities and Voluntary Sector

The main municipal authorities concerned are Roznov pod Radhostem (Beskydy; population about 20,000 people) and Uherske Hradiste (Bile Karpaty; population about 27,500). Both of these towns are highly focused on rural tourism development and nature protection because these form a significant source of local revenue. Roznov is actually known nationally for its outdoor museum of rural life and architecture (Valašské muzeum v přírodě), which has a staff of 117 and receives some 330,000 visitors a year. The museum maintains seed stocks of old crop varieties as well as local livestock breeds and has a deep interest in reviving former management methods in mountain grasslands. The museum can also serve to provide information about project progress and results.

Furthermore, the local PLA offices are located in the towns and so there is close communication between the PLA staff and local officials with respect to PLA zoning and land use.

There are a number of active NGOs involved with the PLAs, including:

- CSOP Kosenka – Bile Karpaty
- CSOP Bile Karpaty
- CSOP Salamandr – Beskydy
- WWF - Carpathian Eco region Initiative
- Czech Society for Ornithology (Birdlife International) – Beskydy Mountains is an “Important Bird Area” (CSOP = branch of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation)

Local farming organisations include:

- Tradice Bile Karpaty – organic farmers organisation
- Romney and Oveko – marketing cooperatives for graziers

Lessons from relevant GEF activities and programmes in the region

GEF through various IAs has been supporting a number of relevant projects in the region that address various aspects of sustainable management and sustainable use of grassland ecosystems. Most relevant initiatives are described below. The proposed project will ensure exchange of information and lessons with these initiatives and will built upon those lessons to ensure efficient use of GEF resources.

Central European Grasslands - Conservation and Sustainable Use

The GEF project implemented in Slovakia by World Bank started in June 2000. The project promotes sustainable use of the meadows in four areas: SrNP (Slovensky raj National Park), MFNP (Mala Fatra National Park), Morava River floodplain, and Olsavica valley through: (a) The preparation and implementation of restoration and management plans; (b) The analysis and introduction of incentives to encourage farmers to adopt biodiversity friendly and sustainable meadow management practices; (c) Development of Slovak grassland databases as information framework for preparation of national policy for grassland biodiversity conservation; (e) Training and capacity building for managers and landowners. The project objective is to assist Slovakia to maintain representative samples of unique grassland ecosystems and their biodiversity in both the protected areas and productive landscape, through the promotion of restoration, conservation and sustainable use management practices.

Conservation, restoration and Wise Use of Rich Fens in the Slovak Republic

The GEF project implemented in Slovakia by UNDP was approved in 2003. The project aims at the conservation of Carpathian peatland biodiversity, with a focus on calcareous fens, a unique ecosystem with its center of distribution in Slovakia. In particular, the following will be addressed: 1) drainage of fens, 2) lack of appropriate management of protected fen areas, 3) lack of public awareness and appreciation of peatland biodiversity, 4) low institutional capacity to

address threats to fen biodiversity, 5) weak policy environment to ensure adequate protection of fen biodiversity. Activities realized in three pilot areas will serve to demonstrate best practices in restoring and managing these valuable habitats, and lessons learned will be applied to the development and maintenance of the Natura 2000 network in Slovakia, with a special emphasis on conservation of fen and peatland biodiversity.

Integration of Ecosystem Management Principles and Practices into Land and Water Management of Slovakia's Laborec – Uh Eastern lowlands.

The purpose of the prepared GEF project is to facilitate a sustainable transition by water managers, farmers and other resource managers in Slovakia's Eastern Lowlands from conventional water and agricultural management techniques to integrated ecosystem management practices. In so doing, resource managers will conserve globally significant biodiversity and reduce nutrient loading of Europe's largest transboundary river. Project stakeholders will apply ecosystem management oriented management practices in a wetland area between the Laborec and Uh Rivers in Slovakia's Eastern Lowlands. The project will finance incremental ecosystem management activities in close collaboration with a much larger Government-supported effort to re-orient water management and agricultural practices in the Laborec-Uh area. The project will demonstrate practical, low-cost, ecologically oriented methods of transitioning to a sustainable water and agricultural management regime that generates global biodiversity, water quality and carbon absorption benefits.

Integrated Ecosystem management in Northern Bohemia

The goal of the prepared GEF project is to produce benefits for both globally significant biodiversity and to the quality and volume of the water resources of the international Elbe basin through the adoption and implementation by a coordinated group of stakeholders of integrated ecosystem management plans and practices in the Bohemian Switzerland region of the Czech Republic. The project proposed will assist the Czech Republic to improve overall environmental quality and implement the principles of sustainable development through conservation of globally significant biodiversity and protection of transboundary surface waters.

Conservation and restoration of the Globally Significant Biodiversity of the Tisza River Floodplain through Integrated Floodplain Management

The Overall Objective of this Project is biodiversity friendly, sustainable development of the Tisza floodplain. The Project Immediate Objective is to establish biodiversity friendly, holistic floodplain management as the dominant development paradigm in the Upper Tisza floodplain. Four Intermediate Outcomes will contribute to this. First, the Project will establish a sustainable regional mechanism (the *Platform*) to support local Initiatives and provide them with a direct communication channel to national decision-makers. Second, with support from the Project, the Platform will develop tools for supporting integrated, holistic, floodplain management. Third, each Initiative will develop an Action Plan, and the Project will contribute to its implementation. Finally, the integrated, holistic, floodplain management pro-biodiversity approach will be mainstreamed into the related national policy.

Conservation of Globally Significant Biodiversity in the Landscape of Bulgaria's Rhodope Mountains

The objective of this GEF project under implementation in Bulgaria is the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the Rhodope Mountains. The project helps to integrate diversity conservation objectives into productive sectors. In particular, project objectives are: to introduce landscape-scale conservation in Eastern and Western Rhodope Landscape Nature Parks; and to help

stakeholders integrate biodiversity into resource management and economic development policy and practice.

The proposed UNDP/GEF project in Carpathians will benefit from lessons and results of the mentioned projects especially in the areas of institutional capacity building, awareness building and securing sustainable conservation goals through Natura 2000 and agri-environmental programs. The project management team will liaise with the counterparts from other GEF projects in the region during the inception phase in order to analyze their experiences and lessons and incorporate them into the proposed project strategy and work plans.

In one of the project areas - Biele Karpaty, there is traditionally a very strong co-operation with the local Slovak organisations in the field of nature and biodiversity protection and local development issues. A common Czech and Slovak magazine is published focusing on these issues. These partnerships will facilitate transfer and exchange of experience between projects and organisations.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE, PURPOSE, EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

Project Objective

The objective of this project is to strengthen the conservation management of globally significant biodiversity in species-rich mountain grassland habitats (grasslands and pastures) in two Protected Landscape Areas (PLA) in the Carpathian Mountains of the Czech Republic.

Project Purpose

The project will address the objective chiefly by drawing in, on a demonstration basis, targeted support from newly available EU funding opportunities for integrated rural development (principally CAP support payments and Natura 2000/LIFE programme grants) and making the lessons learned and best practices developed widely available for replication throughout the Czech PLA system and the Carpathian Eco region as a whole.

The project will establish priority locations for mountain grassland biodiversity conservation in two PLAs and define the management measures required for them. Where appropriate, the project will assist landowner-based management (grazing, cutting or a combination of these) of mountain grassland biotopes based on newly available EU financial support mechanisms (principally CAP support payments and Natura 2000/LIFE programme grants). In this regard, the project is designed to test and validate the assumption that existing and future EU financial support mechanisms, properly oriented, will sufficiently offset the additional costs that landowners incur when managing the more inaccessible, biodiversity-rich mountain grassland habitats that they will happily participate in PLA-designed grassland management plans. GEF funding will be targeted to developing the initial capacity to identify the most valuable mountain grassland areas, gain and share expertise in securing EU funding for grassland management projects, monitoring the outcomes of management, and disseminating the knowledge among others involved in mountain grassland management, particularly Parties to the Carpathian Convention.

By the end of the project, the PLA will be able to work effectively with private, communal and state landowners (farmers, local authorities and statutory agencies such as the Forest Administration) through training, joint management and collaborative monitoring activities towards the goal of conserving mountain grassland biodiversity. It will also provide tangible results that will enable the EU financial support mechanisms to be fine-tuned at a national level to strengthen their applicability for mountain grassland conservation.

Outcome 1

Institutional capacity is in place to assess, plan and implement priority conservation management of mountain grasslands taking full advantage of newly available funding mechanisms under the EU Common Agricultural Policy and Natura 2000

Activity 1.1

Memorandum of Understanding defining the roles and division of labour between MoE and MoA prepared, signed and implemented [Budget: \$ 5,000]

During the inception phase of the project, a Memorandum of Understanding will be drawn up between the MoE and MoA to establish their formal roles in the project. The MoU will include a detailed workplan providing an “at-a-glance” view of project performance by showing the schedule of related activities, their cost and the expected outputs and achievements according to the project success indicators set out in the project summary.

The MoU will also establish a Project Steering Committee (PSC), defining its membership and procedures. The PSC will review inputs, activities and results against the project success indicators and take any necessary steps to strengthen or modify project management accordingly. The PSC will also commission an independent mid-term evaluation to assess project progress to date towards milestones and success indicators, assess project management, financing, and to recommend improvements to be implemented during the second half of the project.

Finally, the MoU will define the project management arrangements for day-to-day project implementation.

Activity 1.2

GIS capability (staffing, hardware, software) in LPA Administration upgraded to accommodate survey, monitoring and assessment data for mountain grasslands [Budget: \$ 80,000]

A review of the current GIS and data base capability in the two PLAs, and its links with the central administration in Prague, will be conducted. Appropriate hardware and software will be procured, and training provided, to enable the local PLA administrations to construct a site monitoring data base, enter data with quality control procedures, and plot site maps. The procurement package will include field GIS/GPS data acquisition equipment and software, e.g. the CyberTracker package (<http://www.cybertracker.co.za>).

Activity 1.3

Mountain grassland surveys of the two project PLAs carried out using rapid assessment methods [Budget: \$ 40,000]

A rapid assessment of mountain grassland distribution, vegetation type (according to EUNIS classification), biodiversity value and threats will be undertaken using satellite imagery, aerial photographs and targeted site visits. This activity will be supported by Activity 1.2 (principally to classify imagery and select field sites for ground truthing), and the data acquired will be returned to the GIS data base for categorisation and analysis. A report on the results will be produced.

Activity 1.4

Identification of priority mountain grassland sites for conservation management [Budget: \$ 10,000]

The results from Activities 1.2 and 1.3 will be presented at a seminar for scientists, government officials, local communities and NGOs. The seminar will discuss criteria for selection of priority grassland sites for conservation management. The criteria will then be used to identify sites for further attention under the project (in particular, Activities 1.5 and 3.1).

Where appropriate, conservation and recovery plans for priority grassland species and habitats in each PLA will be produced. Specific conservation goals and objectives will be established and recovery management activities identified and agreed upon.

Activity 1.5

Establishment of mountain grassland management advice units in the project PLAs with trained staff and adequate equipment [Budget: \$ 56,000]

Under this activity, each PLA will strengthen its capacity by establishing grassland management advice units (GMAU) to work collaboratively with landowners and other stakeholders (including the PLA itself with respect to Natura 2000/LIFE funding). PDF-A preparatory work revealed that in other parts of Europe such as the UK, it is estimated that one person can provide support to 25 farms (based on 60 hours of advisor time per year), so units of initially two or three people, with secretarial support, will be required together with the necessary office accommodation and equipment (not least broadband internet access since most EU funding application documents have to be downloaded from the Europe website).

The project will provide consultancy support for training GMAU staff in the preparation of documentation for relevant EU financial assistance, as well as strengthen the PLA's capacity to prepare contracts, farm management plans, advisory support, and monitoring. The existing contracts used by PLAs within the land management program will be a useful baseline.

Detailed preparatory consultations were carried out under the PDF A with farmers, which will allow the GMAUs to begin working with them at an early stage (a summary of information on the stakeholder consultations is given in Annex 4). The first step of establishing grazing

agreements will involve confirming the information received during PDF-A implementation from each of the 25 or so farmers who agreed to participate in the initial stages of the project, as well as updating them on developments and the new post-accession situation and requirements regarding financial support for conservation management (cf. Outcome 2).

The aim of management agreements reached with landowners will be to undertake prescribed grazing regimes at selected localities (cf. Activity 1.4), particularly in zones 1 and 2 of the PLAs where management prescriptions are expected to be applied to 95% of zone 1 and 75% of zone 2 by the end of the project.

It should be noted that the PLAs may have to purchase and manage their own livestock in critical circumstances where landowners are not willing to undertake the prescribed management regime themselves (for example, where the demands of biodiversity conflict with conventional grazing periods, stocking rates and so on). Funding for this can be explored under the EU Life (Nature) scheme.

Outcome 2

Farmers' capacity and incentives for and participation in conservation-oriented management of mountain grasslands is improved

Activity 2.1

Preparation of information about funding schemes for grassland owners in the two project PLAs, and implementation of management [Budget: \$ 8,640,000]

The successful management of each PLA is dependent on a wide range of stakeholders. This activity will raise the awareness of the wider community of the principles of protected landscapes and the value of goods and services provided by biodiversity.

Part of this activity will include preparing and disseminating an information pack for owners of high value grasslands explaining the opportunities for EU financial support for conservation management, the priority areas for management (including restoration of former grasslands), the system for contracts and the advisory support that is provided by the PLA administration.

The project will also develop and place information boards in project sites along tourist trails and other public places. Promotional leaflets will be produced for both farmers and the wider community containing information on: the project; influence of sheep and goat pasturing on the landscape; organic agriculture; sheep and goat farming (breeds, grazing technologies etc.); potential sheep and goat products; references for traders, processors; farmers and other involved stakeholders; and recipes for local food specialties.

Information on the activities and results of the project will be shared with and disseminated among the local media. Articles will be prepared for the most popular weekly regional magazine 'Nase Valassko', 'Farmer' magazine and the magazine of the Sheep and Goats Breeder's

Association. Reports will be prepared for the regional television news ‘TV Beskydy’ and information posted on the Internet.

A website (www.ireas.cz/undp) has already been constructed for the project and will be further elaborated.

The overall effect of this activity will be to encourage farmers to take up appropriate funding schemes for extensive grassland management, with considerable co-funding from MoA and MoE, potentially reaching some \$7.6 million per year (see budget).

Activity 2.2

Training provided to individuals or groups, focusing on priority areas, on sustainable livestock management and organic production [Budget: \$ 90,000]

In order to consolidate the grazing management regimes, participating farmers will be offered training courses, provided by university-level experts, in sustainable livestock management and organic production (held outside the main grazing periods). The training will be linked to the creation of a PLA under which local produce can be marketed. Possible courses could include:

- Grassland biodiversity & sheep pasturing
- Maintaining sheep health
- How to apply grazing management to enhance grassland habitat conditions
- Feeding of ewes and lambs
- Conservation of feedstock & use of sheep dogs
- Sheep milk processing
- Sheep meat production
- Organic agriculture
- Wool qualities & processing opportunities
- Rearing of fine-fibre livestock (Kashmir goat, alpaca, etc)
- Enterprise development and product marketing

The courses will initially be provided free of charge, but modest fees will be introduced from the second year of the project to defray costs and to generate sufficient revenue to develop and provide training over the long term (after the project has finished). A certificate of attendance at appropriate courses will be a requirement of receiving the quality marque.

Activity 2.3

Annual seminars held for grassland owners in each project PLA, to review management outcomes and funding opportunities for following fiscal year [Budget: \$ 18,000]

This activity is an adaptive learning exercise that will draw upon information gathered from the outcomes of conservation management schemes. Seminars will be held each year to review all aspects of the project’s farmer-based grassland management and discussions will revolve

primarily around how to improve management proactively for grassland biodiversity. The participants will include other stakeholders such as government officials, scientists and NGOs.

An assessment will be conducted of the existing services provided by the PLA to farmers and its strengths and weaknesses vis-à-vis enabling grassland management. Farmer interviews will be conducted to assess what is working in the grazing areas and what is not with respect to grazing practices and grassland treatments as well as the good and bad aspects of the existing financial incentives.

The PLA will also update participating farmers on any changes in the EU financial support system for the forthcoming year(s).

The seminars will be the occasion to exchange experience and strengthen cross-border co-operation with the counterparts on the Slovak side of the PLAs.

Activity 2.4

Study tours to examine application of agro-environment schemes in protected landscapes in other EU countries [Budget: \$ 52,355]

At least two study tours will be conducted to protected landscapes elsewhere in Europe (such as Snowdonia or the North York Moors in the UK), where farmers play a central and active role in managing for biodiversity. The tour participants will comprise PLA staff from the GMAUs and leaders from the group of farmers participating in the project's grassland management activities. They will examine the methods used for integrating farming practices with biodiversity conservation.

The participants in the study tours will present brief reports on their experiences at the annual farmers' meetings (Activity 2.3).

Activity 2.5

Creation of a certified marque for locally produced products based on environmentally-beneficial management of mountain grasslands, Promotion of this marque. [Budget: \$ 855,300]

The DLA administrations will design and register a marque for local products certifying their origin and contribution to sustainable use of mountain grasslands. The criteria for awarding the marque and annual renewal requirements (including training) will be determined in consultation with appropriate stakeholders. Those awarded a marque will pay a licence fee that will generate revenue for the DLAs, which will be used to support the costs of the GMAUs as well as the marque scheme itself. The licence fee should be proportional to the scale of production i.e. based on hectares of land used or head of livestock. The licence fee should eventually cover all costs of the marque scheme as well as the GMAU costs to ensure long-term viability of the grassland management and production system.

Outcome 3

Monitoring and evaluation programme for mountain grassland biodiversity conservation management in place

Activity 3.1

Carry out annual monitoring of site biodiversity as well as economic benefits for landowners
[Budget: \$ 135,000]

Monitoring will be an important component of the project, as the exact influence of the reintroduction of pasturing after many years is not yet known. It will be particularly important to monitor the first phase and initial changes so that negative impacts can be addressed through adjustments to the management approach. Also, both botanical and socio-economic monitoring will provide important feedback to help in refining and honing the mainstreaming of biodiversity objectives into new agricultural programs. GEF resources will support the start-up costs of monitoring and sustain them through the project's lifetime. Each PLA has committed to continuing monitoring activities upon conclusion of the project.

The DLA administrations, with assistance from relevant experts, will develop monitoring protocols for data collection and analysis for key aspects of grassland biodiversity and sustainable use. These protocols together will comprise a monitoring manual, and will cover aspects such as:

- climate
- flora composition and vegetation types
- butterflies
- grasshoppers
- breeding birds
- vegetation structure, productivity and nutritional value
- soil structure and erosion
- meat production
- milk production
- wool production

The protocols will specify the number, size and location for a network of quadrats and transects in the sites to be monitored. The methods will follow best international practice (especially relating to the national system for reporting on Natura 2000 sites to the European Environment Agency) and aim to set up a system of indicators that can be related to various grazing (or cutting) regimes (including no grazing or cutting).

Activity 3.2

Analysis of monitoring data to check correspondence with management objectives [Budget: \$ 20,000]

The monitoring data collected under Activity 3.1 will be analysed according to the specifications in the protocols (statistical routines to be used and interpretation of results, trend analysis, etc). The results of the analysis will be compared with the expected/desired outcomes of the prescribed management regime and any deviations noted.

The results will be presented and discussed at the annual meetings of grassland owners participating in the project (Activity 2.3) and any necessary changes in management regimes evaluated.

Activity 3.3

Annual publication on biodiversity status and ecologically sustainable economic uses of mountain grasslands including results from monitoring and recommended management alterations [Budget: \$ 45,000]

The analysis of monitoring results from each PLA will be published as an annual report. The report will include recommended changes in management regimes that have been agreed in the light of the monitoring results.

Outcome 4

National policy for agro-environment schemes incorporates project experience

Activity 4.1

European Conference on conservation management and ecologically sustainable use of mountain grasslands within the framework of the Carpathian Convention [Budget: \$ 100,000]

The project will assist the organisation of a European Conference on conservation management and ecologically sustainable use of mountain grasslands within the framework of the Carpathian Convention in order to disseminate the practices employed and lessons learned to Eco regional stakeholders. PA managers, NGOs, institutional staff and farmers from other areas of the Carpathian Eco region will be invited to participate.

Activity 4.2

MoA Working Group on Agro-Environmental Scheme for Mountain Grasslands [Budget: \$ 6,000]

MoA is an important partner in the scaling up of project lessons and experiences, given that they implement agricultural subsidy and conservation payment programs. A national-level Working Group will be established with MoA that will seek to encourage knowledge transfer and build local capacity through regional cooperation, farmer-to-farmer exchanges and within MoA's national network of forest administrations.

The Working Group will also ensure that the lessons learned and best practices developed are used to influence the development of other agro-environmental schemes within the country, and ultimately further revision of the EU Common Agricultural Policy.

Activity 4.3

MoE Working Group on Conservation Management of Mountain Grasslands [Budget: \$ 6,000]

A national-level Working Group will be established with MoA that will seek to replicate lessons learned and best practices throughout the MoE's national network of PLAs. PLA staff from other areas will be invited to the project sites for study tours. A series of workshops will be held for PLA staff from across the Czech Republic and materials will be prepared to facilitate mainstreaming and scaling-up of the project's best practices. Among several different kinds of materials, a booklet will be prepared for PLA authorities outlining the approach taken to establish a landscape management scheme.

The Working Group will designate appropriate representatives to participate in relevant workshops, meetings, and committees involved in the development of rural development and agricultural programs, and develop close cooperation and share lessons learned through the network developed within the Carpathian Eco region Initiative: WWF CEI, the Carpathian Convention Secretariat, CEEWEB, REC and others.

3. SUSTAINABILITY (INCLUDING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY)

SUSTAINABILITY ANALYSIS AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Sustainability

This project has been designed to enable the continuation of project-inspired changes in practice upon completion of the project itself. The project's design reflects several overriding assumptions related to the question of sustainability and how this will be achieved: a) the project's outputs and activities are largely achievable with existing institutions, financial resources and personnel through strengthened partnerships with landowners, farmers cooperatives, local authorities and NGOs; b) leveraging larger sectoral programmes to build momentum institutionally and individually for conservation objectives that will be a significant contributing factor to sustainability; c) the EU's recently revised Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is evolving away from subsidies for production towards direct payments to achieve societal goals like upland grassland biodiversity conservation or watershed protection; and d) the PLA will expand the mechanism established during the project to incorporate other agro-environmental activities.

The project's approach to sustainability relies on three key components: 1) a learning process to ensure that agro-environmental management approaches are integrated into agricultural programs and related subsidies to allow farmers to be paid adequately for conserving biodiversity in each PLA; 2) to strengthen the capacity of key stakeholders through training and partnership building to access markets and subsidy programs; and 3) to encourage farmers to become less reliant upon agricultural subsidies by improving the economic viability and

marketing for grassland-derived products. The marketing will be supported by an official marque awarded to farmers that meet sustainable production criteria; a licence fee for the marque will generate revenue for the GMAUs.

EU agricultural programmes are progressively placing more emphasis on environmental protection measures and less on support to production. As described under Output 4, the project places a high priority on successfully influencing the discussion at the Czech Republic level on how to implement the new CAP within the CR in a way that furthers its global environmental commitments to the CBD and the Carpathian Convention.

With respect to point 2, the project is designed to work with and strengthen local institutional and stakeholder capacities to carry out biodiversity friendly production through training and partnership building. The ability to implement these activities sustainably will be ensured by building the capacity of a cross-section of civil-society (PLA teams, farmers, farm groups and cooperatives, NGOs, local authorities and Ministry departments). Over the life of the project, partnerships between PLA and local communities will be an important element in ensuring sustainability. Partnerships will strengthen the capacity of existing institutions to sustain integrated conservation efforts over the long-term of farming operations through better markets and thus sustainable.

With respect to point 3 the project assumes that farmers will be able to improve the production, processing and marketing of farm products so that, in combination with support from the EU CAP, farmer-supported management of mountain grasslands is economically viable.

Risks

One risk inherent in the strategic approach of this project is related to the profound change underway in the Czech Republic as it deepens integration with EU rural policies. The project seeks to influence that change by mainstreaming biodiversity conservation criteria and objectives into productive agriculture sector programmes and policies. There is the risk that biodiversity concerns/objectives/priorities will be dominated by productive sector goals and their effectiveness correspondingly reduced. Tying this project to other broad political goals, however, will assist the Czech Republic to meet obligations to the CBD, Carpathian Convention and EU Directives, can mitigate this risk to a large degree.

The second risk to project success involves the reliance upon farmers as the primary agents of conservation in the mountain grassland landscape. The risk arises from the complex social and economic forces that affect farmer decision-making. This project seeks to influence these decision-making processes by re-orienting existing subsidies and other programs to provide incentives for farmers to essentially produce biodiversity on mountain grassland pastures, something that has never been done in the Czech Republic intentionally. The risk of insufficient incentives to farmers to motivate biodiversity friendly behaviour is mitigated by the fact that incentive programs have been developed and in use in the Czech Republic and other countries of the region for decades. The project is designed to draw upon these successful experiences. Farmers are familiar with subsidy programs and can be expected to participate willingly in this

project. Subsidy programs exist now with general biodiversity friendly aims, but need to be reoriented to explicitly include biodiversity conservation and to be more accessible to farmers (who need to build the capacity to access them).

The third risk stems from the centrality of cross-sectoral collaboration to the project's approach. The project requires cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture to avoid working at cross-purposes. This risk is mitigated to a large degree by the ongoing public policy dialogue in regard to agricultural support programs and the need to broaden the focus from production to rural development, environmental services and quality of life overall. The recent de-linking of subsidies from production is a first step toward a more progressive rural development policy and one that ultimately parallels or supports the goals of this project

4. REPLICABILITY

Potential for Replication

This project will investigate and pilot how to provide the right mix of incentives based on EU programmes for the conservation management of mountain grasslands. It aims to demonstrate that such support can be oriented and managed for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and that this in turn can lead to a broader base of income for landowners participating in conservation management thus ensuring their willing participation.

The results will have an unusually high potential for replication because they can be incorporated in national, and potentially EU-wide, policies regarding financial support for biodiversity conservation, rural development and agro-environment schemes as well as provide the practical experience needed to implement them. Lessons learned and best practices will be applicable not only across the Czech Republic, but also in many other Central and Eastern European countries, especially first and second tier accession countries and those which signed the Carpathian Convention in Kiev in May 2003

5. STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Stakeholder/farmers involvement

During the PDF A, three local stakeholder consultations were held, involving over 100 people. More intensive one-on-one discussions were held with over sixty farmers in the project area. One national-level coordination meeting was held among representatives of MoE, MoA, various research institutes, PLAs, Farmers Union, NGOs, the Organic Production Control Institute and others. Finally, individual meetings with PLA, MoE and MoA officials, academia, NGOs and private sector were conducted to discuss and confirm co-financing commitments.

Because PLA-farmer cooperation is so important to the strategic approach of the project, PDF A preparatory work entailed working closely with the PLA representatives, local managers,

botanists, socio-economic experts and farmers to compile a list of farms suitable for involvement in the project.

PDF A activities centered around consultations with farmers and other stakeholders to qualify and quantify the overall level of farm management. Each farmer was individually consulted several times with the aim of understanding the project rationale and objectives, to get information about the farm, its current economic situation, its future plans, its needs and bottlenecks of further development (See Annex 4). The level of individual farm management was then characterized by the PDF A team using such attributes as: the willingness to communicate with project managers, their focus on sheep and goat farming, condition of technical equipment on the farm, farm management skills, and third-party recommendation.

Extensive consultations were also held to identify the best, biologically richest locations where the project could focus its incremental and co-funding resources. As a result, the selected grasslands and pastures are only located in Zones I and II, and represent the highest priority sites within the Protected Landscape Areas.

During implementation of the MSP project, a similar methodology will be used, i.e. organizing local stakeholder coordination meetings, trainings and individual meetings. However, the trainings will be more targeted for specific issues and more farmers will be involved. Farmers receiving project support will be used as resource persons during the trainings and coordination meetings and will provide facilities for organizing study tours for other farmers and PLA representatives.

During PDF A local communities and farmers demonstrated a strong support to and ownership over the proposed project. It was agreed that the local farmers' associations will be involved during the MSP in the capacity building and dissemination activities. In addition, the co-operation with the NGO Nadace Partnerství (Foundation Partnership) was agreed, which is very active in the target region. The foundation has established a network of local environmental, agricultural and cultural NGOs and guarantees the agreement and good cooperation with the local stakeholders.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- FOA – Fund for Organic Agriculture: Implementing Agency
- Selected farmers in the region: implementation of farm activities, disseminators of outputs and ideas in farm communities
- PLA Beskydy and PLA Bile Karpaty: ensures involvement of the state administration at the operational level
- Administration of the PLAs: partner at the central level, head of the PLAs, influencing the creation of the future agro-environmental measures
- MoE: partner at the central level, influencing the creation of future agro-environmental measures
- MoA: partner at the central level, influencing the revision of agricultural policy

- The Agency for Landscape Protection (AOPK). Located within the MoE, the AOPK's mission is to provide technical support to conservation work by providing information, training, research, advisory services and methodology advice, and finally documentation, regarding nature conservation and landscape protection. During implementation of the project, AOPK offers its network for sharing information with other PLAs and for dissemination of best practices.
- Goat and Sheep Breeder's Association: excellent source of information and contact point with goat and sheep breeders in the Czech Republic
- Marketing cooperative OVEKO: marketing cooperative of the Goat and Sheep Breeders Association
- Marketing cooperative ROMNEY: marketing cooperative ROMNEY has been active in the region for several years and is an established name amongst farmers and processors.
- Marketing cooperative Tradice Bilych Karpat: has very successfully started production and marketing of organic fruit products (apple juice), intends to extend activities to more than fruit products
- Association of advisors in organic agriculture: association of experts on both technical issues of the sheep and goat breeding and legislative and state subsidy issues
- Control of Organic Agriculture (KEZ): the only licensed organization in the CR to confer "bio" certification.
- Czech Union for Nature Conservation: Ekocentrum KOSENKA, Ekocentrum ČSOP Bílé Karpaty, CSOP Salamandr: organizations working on the voluntary principle in the regions, very good knowledge of the countryside, local people and traditions.
- Research Institute of Agricultural Economics (VÚZE): service organization of the MoA, involved in preparation of agro-environmental measurements for SAPARD, good information database.

6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring plan is attached as annex 9.

D – FINANCING

1) FINANCING PLAN

Estimated budget (in US\$):

PDF A:	UNDP/GEF	25,000
	Co-funding	
	<i>Total PDF-A:</i>	
GEF:		974,300
Co-financing:		9,375,355
• MoA		7,700,000
• MoE		34,000
• Protected Landscape Areas		1,532,355
• Research Institute of Agricultural Economics		85,000
• NGOs (in kind)		24,000
TOTAL (not including PDF-A):		10,349,655

Budget

Outcome/Outputs	MoA	MoE/NCA	Research Institute	Foundation Partnership	GEF	Total
1: Institutional capacity to assess, plan and implement priority conservation management of mountain grasslands taking full advantage of EU funding mechanisms	0	34,000	25,000	0	135,000	194,000
1.1 Memorandum of Understanding defining the roles and division of labour between MoE and MoA prepared, signed and implemented					5,000	5,000
1.2 GIS capability (staffing, hardware, software) in PLA Administration upgraded to accommodate survey, monitoring and assessment data for mountain grasslands		20,000			60,000	80,000
1.3 Mountain grassland surveys of the two project PLAs carried out using rapid assessment methods					40,000	40,000
1.4 Identification of priority mountain grassland sites for conservation management					10,000	10,000
1.5 Establishment of mountain grassland management advice units in the project PLAs with trained staff and adequate equipment		14,000	25,000		20,000	59,000
2: Improvement of farmers' capacity and incentives for and participation in conservation-oriented management of mountain grasslands	7,700,000	1,532,355	0	24,000	423,300	9,679,655
2.1 Preparation of information and funding schemes support for grassland management in the two project PLAs, and implementation of management (see below)	7,000,000	1,500,000		24,000	140,000	8,664,000
2.2 Training provided to individuals or groups, focusing on sustainable livestock management and production					90,000	90,000
2.3 Annual seminars held for grassland owners in each project PLA, to review management outcomes and funding opportunities for following fiscal year					18,000	18,000
2.4 Study tours to examine application of agro-environment schemes in protected landscapes in other EU countries		32,355			20,000	52,355
2.5 Creation of a certified marque for locally produced products based on environmentally-beneficial management of mountain grasslands	700,000				155,300	855,300

Outcome/Outputs	MoA	MoE/NCA	Research Institute	Foundation Partnership	GEF	Total
3: Monitoring and evaluation programme for mountain grassland biodiversity conservation management	0	0	60,000	0	140,000	200,000
3.1 Carry out annual monitoring of site biodiversity as well as economic benefits for landowners			60,000		75,000	135,000
3.2 Analysis of monitoring data to check correspondence with management objectives					20,000	20,000
3.3 Annual publication on biodiversity status and ecologically sustainable economic uses of mountain grasslands including results from monitoring and recommended management alterations					45,000	45,000
4: National policy for agro-environment schemes incorporates project experience	0	0	0	0	112,000	112,000
4.1 European Conference on conservation management and ecologically sustainable use of mountain grasslands within the framework of the Carpathian Convention					100,000	100,000
4.2 MoA Working Group on Agro-environmental Scheme for Mountain Grasslands					6,000	6,000
4.3 MoE Working Group on Conservation Management of Mountain Grasslands					6,000	6,000
5: Project management, monitoring and evaluation	0	0	0	0	164,000	164,000
Project manager					105,000	105,000
Administrative support					25,500	25,500
International expert M&E					12,000	12,000
Audit					4,000	4,000
Travel					9,000	9,000
UNDP missions					4,500	4,500
Miscellaneous					4,000	4,000
Total:	7,700,000	1,566,355	85,000	24,000	974,300	10,349,655

2) Co-financing

Incremental Costs and Co-financing

The cost of the alternative strategy is US\$ 22,558,755 of which US\$12,138,000 constitutes expenditures that will occur in the baseline (without project scenario), and US\$10,420,755 is the cost of additional measures that are needed. These additional costs will be covered through resources from the GEF (US\$ 999,100) and others (US\$ 9,421,655). The following matrix summarizes information on GEF financing and co-financing for each project output. Incremental Cost Matrix is attached as Annex 6.

CO-FINANCING SOURCES				
Name of Co-financier (source)	Classification	Type	Amount (US\$)	Status*
MoA	Government	subsidies and loans	7,700,000	confirmed
MoE	Executing Agency	in-kind support	34,000	confirmed
NCA	Government	subsidies	1,532,355	confirmed
Research Institute of Agricultural Economics (including Nature 2000)	Cooperation Agency	in-kind support	85,000	confirmed
Foundation Partnership	NGO	In-kind support	24,000	confirmed
Subtotal			9,375,355	
ROMNEY	NGO	in-kind support	4,300	unconfirmed
Local farmers	beneficiaries	in-kind support	72,500	unconfirmed

E - INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

1) CORE COMMITMENTS AND LINKAGES

The strategic project partners are:

MoE: partner at the central level, influencing the creation of future agro-environmental measures and coordinating the project. This Ministry will be responsible for international presentation of the project experiences to the other EU new member states.

Contact: <http://www.env.cz/AIS/web.nsf/index.html>

MoA: partner at the central level, influencing the revision of agricultural policy . The project is supported by Director General of the Section of Structural policy, which is responsible for the structural policy implementation. The project will help them to prepare a strategic decision in the year 2006 about the next structural policy programs for farmers in the nature protection areas in the whole country. The Ministry will be able to influence farmers activities in two focused regions by the national co-financing. The co-financing will be 7,700,000 USD.

Contact: <http://www.mze.cz/>

FOA – Fund for Organic Agriculture: Implementing Agency

Experienced project partner established in 1991. This fund was supported a lot of projects to support organic agriculture development and ecology. The main financial sources for this fund have been from partner American, German foundations and Dutch and Czech Governments. The biggest existing project of FOA is last six years focused to development of forests and sustainable agriculture in Yemen with annual turn over more than 150,000 USD. FOA will be responsible for the project implementing and distribution of project sources.

Contact: <http://www.foa.cz/>

PLA Beskydy and PLA Bile Karpaty: ensures involvement of the state administration at the operational level. Experts for biodiversity and nature protection will be the key project experts on regional level. They will co ordinate activities on regional level, discussion with farmers and they will do the main work in area of agricultural policy impact in to the diversity.

Contact: <http://nature.hyperlink.cz/Beskydy/>

<http://www.bilekarpaty.cz/>

Administration of the PLAs: partner at the central level, head of the PLAs, influencing the creation of the future agro-environmental measures in co-operation wit the MoA. The co-financing will be 1,532,000 USD.

Contact: <http://schko.ten.cz/>

Research Institute of Agricultural Economics (VÚZE): service organization of the MoA, involved in preparation of agro-environmental measurements for SAPARD and structural policy for Government of the Czech Republic, they have a good information database. Experts of the institute will prepare economical proposals for MoA to transform structural polity tools in area of supporting of diversity. The co-financing will be 85,000 USD.

Contact: <http://www.vuze.cz/>

2) CONSULTATION, COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN AND AMONG IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES, EXECUTING AGENCIES, AND THE GEF SECRETARIAT, IF APPROPRIATE.

N/A

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The project will be implemented over a period of three years.

Government's Role

Project execution will adhere to UNDP national execution (NEX) project requirements. The Ministry of Environment will serve as the Designated Institution (DI) responsible for project coordination both at the national level in Prague and at the local level in each Protected Landscape Area. The MoE is the primary authority responsible for biodiversity conservation, and therefore the administration of National Parks and Protected Landscape Areas (PLA).

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the programming and implementation of the funding programs for farmers. The Ministry of Environment approves these funding programs, according to the requirements of the EU funds. The cooperation of both ministries in Czech Republic in the area of nature and biodiversity protection is traditionally good. To facilitate the effective collaboration the project structures are proposed in a way that enables the common dialogue and the agreement. The Ministry of Agriculture will play an important role as member of both the Project Steering Committee and Project Board.

Within the project it is planned that participation in the proposed project will be conditional for the award of the compensations in the pilot areas. At the early stages of the project the agreement between the ministries will be developed to ensure the implementation of the projects results into the funding programs in the pilot regions.

The DI is accountable to UNDP for the government's participation in the project. The DI will facilitate project implementation and ensure that internal monitoring and review systems are in place. The DI will prepare the Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings, and with input from PSC members, will provide overall guidance and support to implementation of all project activities. The DI staff or appropriate experts will be utilized when needed in accordance with UNDP guidelines, and will facilitate interaction among relevant public organizations, research institutions and private organizations. To achieve project objectives and produce required outputs, the DI will partner with other "Implementing Agencies" such as NGOs and professional services firms.

Implementing Agency's Role

Under UNDP's NEX guidelines, an Implementing Agency (IA) may be a government institution, a non-governmental organization (NGO). In this case, the IA will be the NGO – Fund for Organic Agriculture or "FOA." FOA will be designated to deliver specific inputs (services, expertise, procurement of equipment) to the project and produce specific outputs through an agreement with the DI and UNDP-CO. FOA will be accountable to the DI and UNDP for the proper use of funds provided to it and for the quality, timeliness and effectiveness of the services it provides and the activities it carries out.

Day-to-day Project Management and Implementation

The primary components of the project will be sub-contracted to FOA. All project staff will be hired by FOA through an open and fair competition following UNDP standard hiring procedures. FOA will establish a project management unit (PMU) for day-to-day management of project implementation. The PMU, headed by a project manager, will be responsible for coordinating all the various inputs to the project. He/she will be in charge of overseeing day-to-day project implementation and management of project activities, consultant input, and confirming the quality of the project's outputs.

One of the most important responsibilities of the PM will be working effectively with members of the PSC and Project Board to ensure that project-inspired activities proceed on schedule. The PM may seek external support from competent advisers as required and ensure independent input to project implementation and sharing of lessons learned.

UNDP's Role

Working closely with the DI, the UNDP Country Office (CO) will be responsible for project monitoring and evaluation, in particular result-based project monitoring, and organizing independent audits to ensure the proper use of UNDP/GEF funds. Financial transactions, auditing and reporting will be carried out in compliance with national regulations and UNDP procedures for national execution.

Project Steering Committee (PSC)

The PSC will consist of one member from each of the following institutions or stakeholder groups: MoE, MoA, local municipalities, UNDP, Beskydy, Bile Karpaty, FOA, and relevant NGOs (including business organizations). The Ministry of Environment will chair the PSC. The PSC's role will be comprised of four main responsibilities: First, when required, the PSC will serve as a forum for stakeholder input and discussion. Second, the PSC will oversee project implementation, meeting on an annual basis to review project progress. Any major changes in project plans or programs will require approval from the PSC in order to take effect. Thirdly, PSC members will facilitate the implementation of project activities in their respective organizations, ensure that cooperative activities are implemented in a timely manner, and facilitate the integration of project-inspired activities into existing programs and practices.

Project Board

The project board will comprise the principal project actors: project manager, PLA directors, Institute of Agricultural Economics and designated NGOs. The Board will meet quarterly to coordinate project planning and implementation in accordance with the project description and reviews carried out by the PSC. The national project director, appointed by the Ministry of Environment, will chair it.

PART II – RESPONSE TO REVIEWS

A - CONVENTION SECRETARIAT

B - OTHER IAS AND RELEVANT EXAS

C - STAP

Annexes:

Annex1: Protected landscape areas (PLAs) in the Czech Republic

Annex2: PLA Bílé Karpaty

Annex3: PLA Beskydy

Annex4: Public Participation Strategy and Final Pre- selection of farmers (stakeholder Consultations in the PDF-A process.

Annex5: Letters of commitment from co-financers.

Annex6: Incremental Cost Matrix

Annex7: Work plan

Annex8: Czech Republic: Conservation of biological diversity of Carpathian Mountain grasslands - Results Framework

ANNEX 1: Protected landscape areas (PLAs) in the Czech Republic

Protected Landscape Areas in the Czech Republic are extensive areas with harmonically formed landscape including pristine or nature little modified by human activity. Areas with special care for nature and landscape.

There are **24 PLAs** in the Czech Republic. They cover **13% of the territory of the Czech Republic, they expanse 10 274 km²**.

All protected Landscape Areas are included in the concept of the European Ecological Network. The most valuable parts of 14 PLAs are core parts of this network.

Local offices established in every PLA safeguard nature and landscape conservation. The local offices are charged with state administration as well as assessment work and are funded from the state budget. PLA Administration aims to secure effective management in the PLA.

PLA Management Plan is a strategic document, which formulates the actual conservation strategy and is basis for land planning.

The conservation of nature and landscape is governed by the Nature and Landscape Conservation Act (No. 114/1992). The care of PLAs is taken:

- By performing special state administration in combination with assessment activities (this gives the opportunity to make decisions in the spheres that involve landscape and nature of the area).
- By dividing the area into zones of differentiated conservation (this makes it possible to distinguish between the regime of each zone, and - where suitable - enable the development of the area).
- By the management plan of the Protected Landscape Area, which formulates the actual conservation strategy and is a basis for land planning, forest management plans and other planning documents.
- By programmes funded by the state (Programme for Landscape Management, River System Revitalization Programme).

The PLA are divided usually into three to four zones. The zones represent the level of limitation of the human activities and its impacts on the quality of the nature. Zone I is a strictly natural zone, includes the most valuable and stable areas with original ecosystems. The areas are referred to as the core zone and they are left to natural development without undesirable human interference.

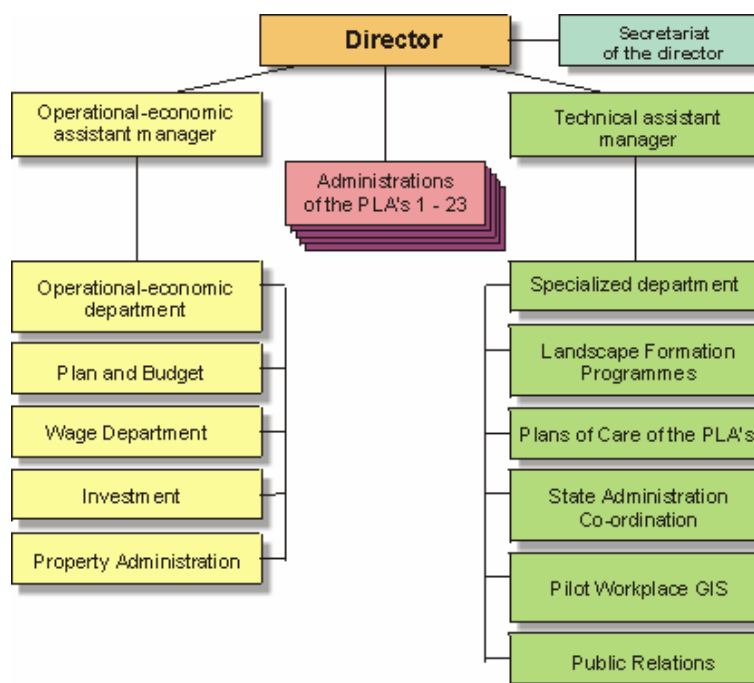
Zone I not:

- allow any building,
- change existing structure and area of plants, unless it is part of the NP Plan of Care,
- use manure, use liquid manure, and other liquid wastes.

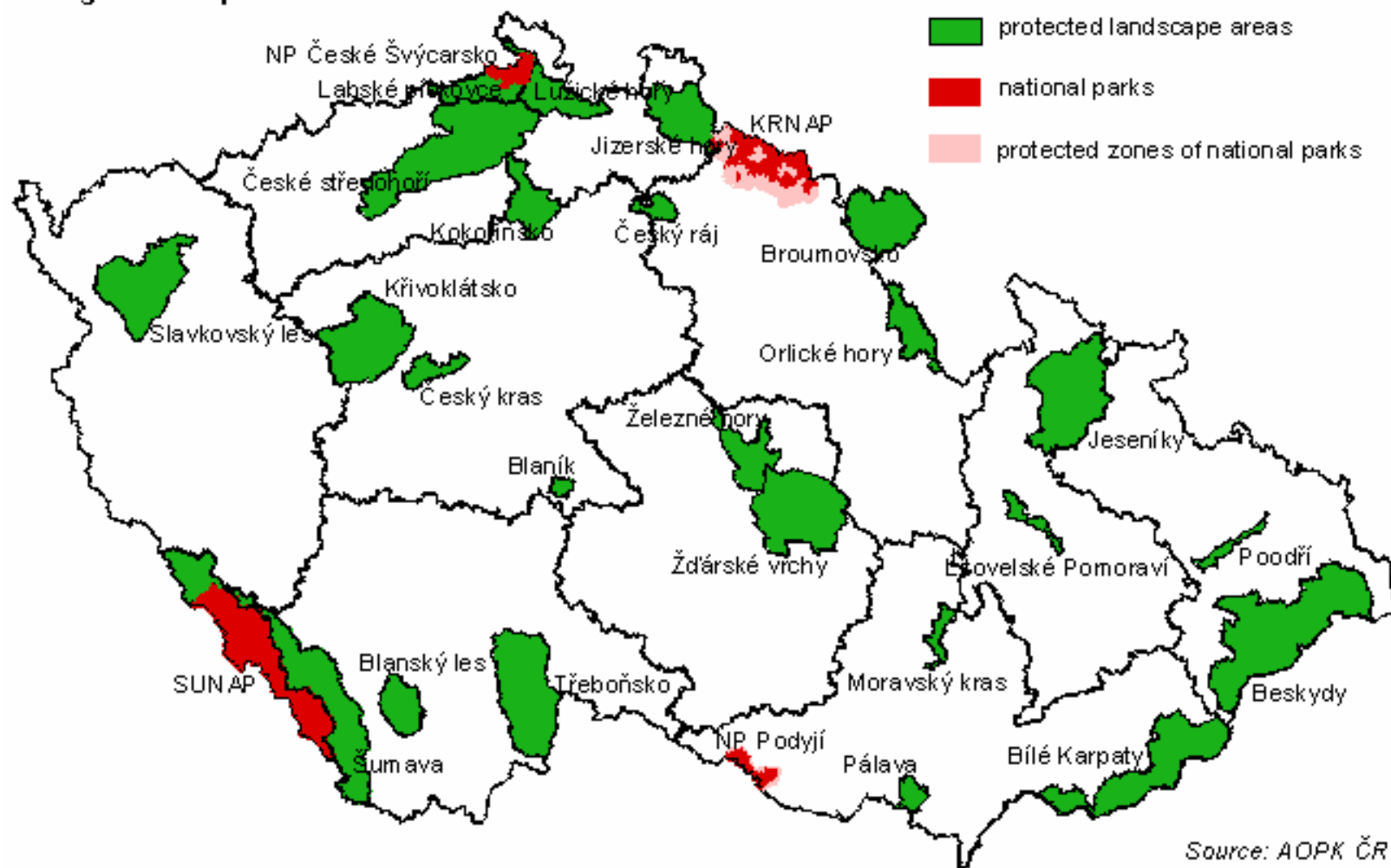
Zone II: Limited structure of agricultural crops, decreased amounts of fertilization and chemical plant protection, no use of heavy machineries, forbidden are activities that may cause the decrease of biodiversity, damage the soil or change the water systems.

**Organizational divisions of the Nature Conservation Authority (NCA) -
- central administration of the other Protected Landscape Areas**

Address:
Nuselska39, 140 00 Prague 4, phone: +420241082111



Large - scale protected areas



ANNEX 2: PLA Bílé Karpaty

PLA Bílé Karpaty was established in 1980, it was pronounced a biospheric reservation on 1996.
 PLA Bílé Karpaty extends over 715 km² or 7% of the overall extent of PLAs of the Czech Republic.
 Elevation: 185 - 970 meters above sea level, the elevation regarding our project is ranging from 250-700 meters above sea level.
 Woodland covers 42% of the area.
 Grassland covers 21% of the area.
 Agricultural land covers 22% of the area.
 Average precipitation: 500 mm/year (this differs between the southern and northern parts of the PLA).

List of selected protected and internationally endangered taxa in Bílé Karpaty

<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	C1, §2, ČK, CITES
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	C3, §3, CITES
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	C3, §3, CITES
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	C2, §2, CITES
<i>Crocus albiflora</i>	
<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>	C2, §2, EU2, BERN, CITES
<i>Dactylorhiza carpatica</i>	C1, §1, CITES
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i> subsp. <i>fuchsii</i>	C4a, §3, CITES
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i> subsp. <i>sooana</i>	C1, §3, CITES
<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i> subsp. <i>incarnata</i>	C2, §2, CITES
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i> subsp. <i>transsilvanica</i>	C1, §1, CITES
<i>Dactylorhiza majalis</i> subsp. <i>majalis</i>	C3, §3, CITES
<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>	C2, §2, CITES
<i>Epipactis palustris</i>	C2, §2, CITES
<i>Gentianella lutescens</i> subsp. <i>carpatica</i>	C1, §2, WORLD-V
<i>Gladiolus palustris</i>	C1, §1, ČK, WORLD-I
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i> subsp. <i>conopsea</i>	C3, §3, CITES
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i> subsp. <i>montana</i>	C1, §3, CITES
<i>Gymnadenia densiflora</i>	C1, §1, CITES
<i>Lathyrus pannonicus</i> subsp. <i>pannonicus</i>	
<i>Liparis loeselii</i>	C1, §1, ČK, EU2, BERN, CITES
<i>Listera ovata</i>	C4a, CITES
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	C1, §1, ČK, CITES
<i>Ophrys holosericea</i> subsp. <i>holubyana</i>	C1, §1, ČK, [EU], WORLD-I, CITES
<i>Orchis mascula</i> subsp. <i>signifera</i>	C3, §3, CITES
<i>Orchis militaris</i>	C2, §2, CITES
<i>Orchis morio</i>	C2, §2, CITES
<i>Orchis pallens</i>	C2, §2, CITES
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	C2, §2, CITES
<i>Orchis ustulata</i> subsp. <i>aestivalis</i>	C1, §2, CITES
<i>Pedicularis exaltata</i>	C1, §1, ČK, [EU]
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	C3, §3, CITES
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	C3, §3, CITES
<i>Pseudolysimachion spurium</i> subsp. <i>foliosum</i>	C1, §1, ČK, [EU]
<i>Pulsatilla grandis</i>	C2, §2, [EU], BERN
<i>Serratula lycopifolia</i>	C1, [EU]
<i>Tephrosieris longifolia</i> subsp. <i>moravica</i>	C1, §1, ČK, [EU], WORLD-I
<i>Traunsteinera globosa</i>	

List of abbreviations (categories of threat)

C1 – critically endangered (IUCN)

C2 – endangered (IUCN)

C3 – vulnerable (IUCN)

§1 – critically endangered (document of the Ministry of the Environment CR)

§2 – endangered (document of the Ministry of the Environment CR)

§3 – vulnerable (document of the Ministry of the Environment CR)

EU – taxa included in Regulation number 92/43/EEC

BERN – taxa included in the Bern Convention

CITES – taxa included in the Washington Convention

WORLD – taxa included in the World Red Data Book

ČK – taxa included in the Czech Red Data Book

Protected and endangered animal species of the PLA Bílé Karpaty**Mammals**

Canis lupus, Felis sylvestris, Ursus arctos, Lynx lynx, Lutra lutra, Myotis mystacinus, Myotis daubentonii, Myotis myotis, Barbastella barbastellus, Nyctalus noctula, Plecotus auritus, Sorex alpinus, Glis glis, Crocidura leucodon

Birds

Agila pomarina, Falco vespertinus, Maculinea arion, Maculinea alcon, Miliaria calandra, Aquila heliaca, Coturnix coturnix, Crex crex, Coracias garrulus, Falco vespertinus, Cicinia nigra, Tetrates bonasia, Rosalia alpina, Zerynthia polyxena, Emberiza hortulana, Monticola saxatilis, Monticola saxatilis, Aegolius funereus, Alcedo atthis, Upupa epops, Dendrocopos leucotos, Turdus torquatus, Nucifraga caryocatactes, Picus viridis, Dendrocopos medius, Accipiter gentilis, Columba oenas, Euphydryas maturna, Carabus scabriusculus,

Reptiles

Vipera berus, Lacerta viridis, Elaphe longissima, Natrix natrix, Anguis fragilis, Lacerta agilis, Coronella austriaca, Lacerta vivipara, Natrix tessellata

Other

Copris lunaris, Mantis religiosa, Astacus fluviatilis, Triturus cristatus, Triturus alpestris, Triturus vulgaris, Rana ridibunda, Lacerta viridis, Elaphe longissima, Vipera berus, Salamandra salamandra, Hyla arborea, Rana dalmatina, Rana esculenta

BÍLÉ KARPATY PLA BUDGET FOR THE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT:

1997	662 500
1998	3 857 000 CZK
1999	6 338 000 CZK
2000	8 894 000 CZK
2001	8 237 000 CZK
2002	3 826 000 CZK

ANNEX 3: PLA Beskydy

The largest PLA in the Czech Republic Beskydy extends 1160km² or 11,3% of the overall extent of PLAs of the Czech Republic. Established in 1973

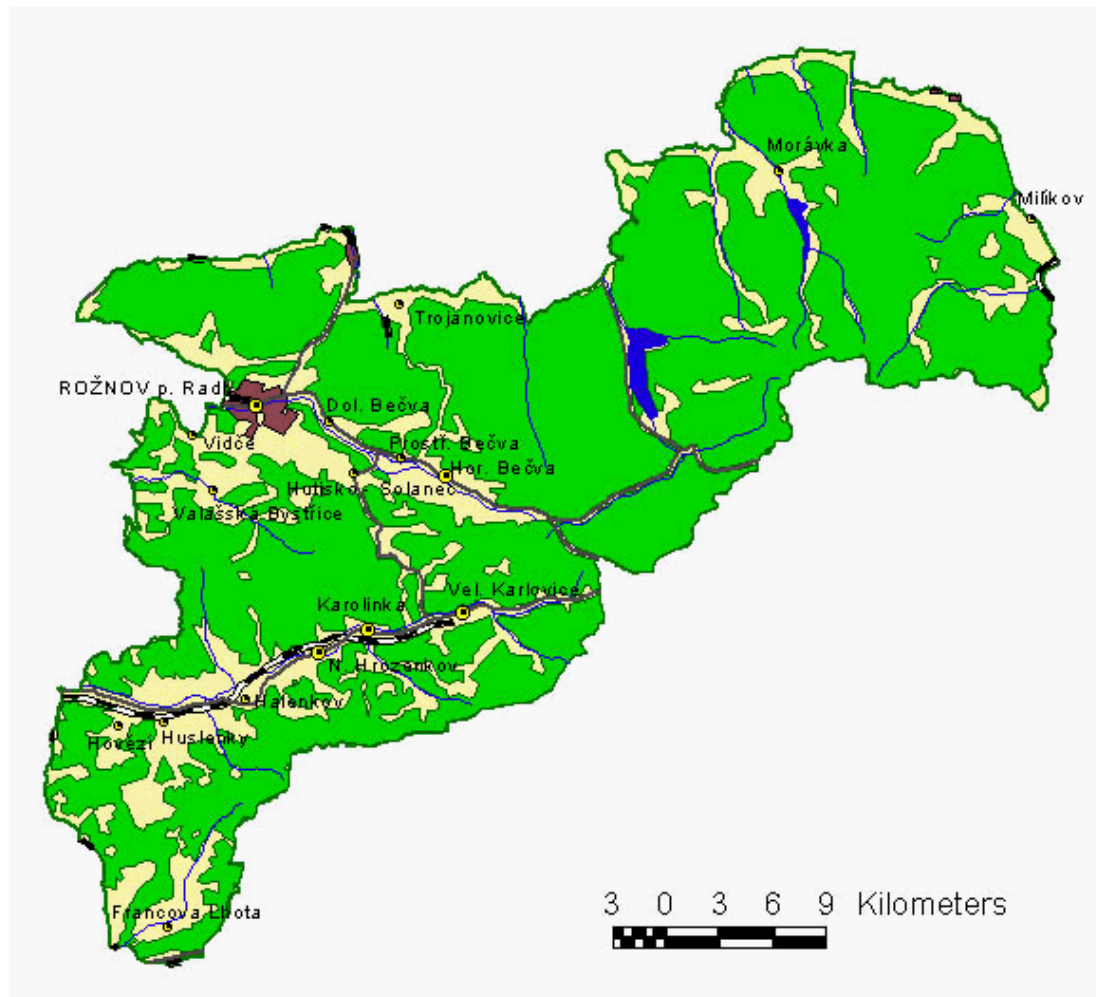
Elevation: 350 - 1328 meters above sea level

The forests cover 71% of the area.

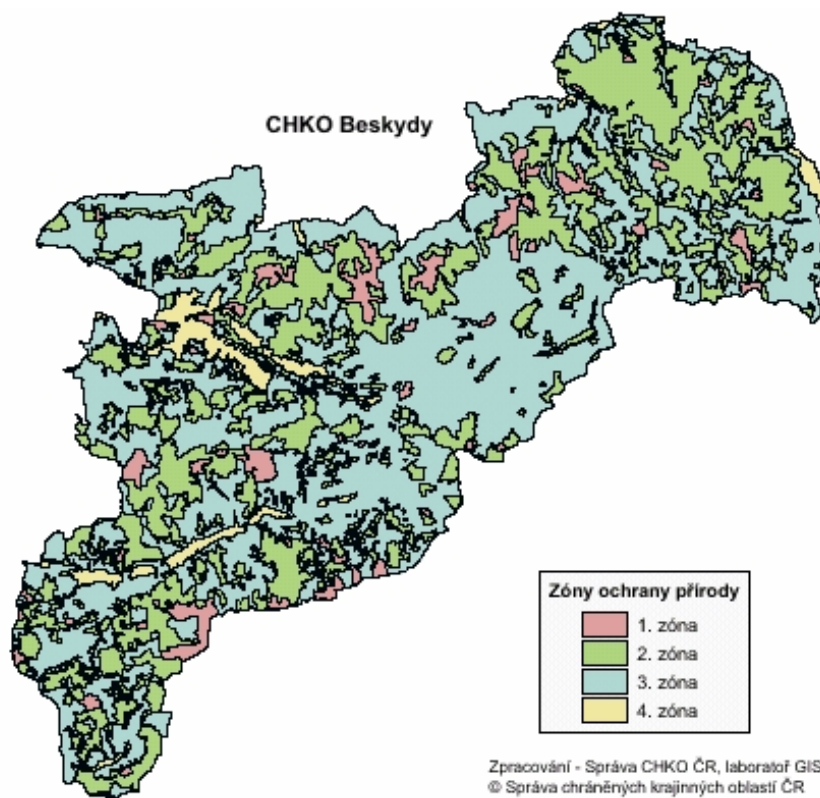
The grasslands cover 16% of the area.

The population of the area is 100 000 inhabitants.

The average precipitation range between 800 mm/year to 1200 mm/year with maximum 1530 mm/year at Lysá hora.



Zonation of PLA Beskydy



List of protected and endangered taxa in protected area Beskydy

	Note
<i>Aconitum firmum</i> ssp. <i>moravicum</i>	
<i>Aconitum variegatum</i>	
<i>Aremonia agrimonoides</i>	C2
<i>Arnica montana</i>	C3, §3, EU5
<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>	C2, §3
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	C2, §2, CITES
<i>Crocus heuffelianus</i>	C1, §2, ČK
<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>	C2, §2, EU2, BERN, CITES
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	C1, §3, CITES
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i> ssp. <i>transsilvanica</i>	C1, §1, CITES
<i>Dactylorhiza majalis</i>	C3, §3, CITES
<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>	C2, §2, CITES
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	C3, §2
<i>Epipactis helleborine orbicularis</i>	C, CITES
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	C4a, CITES
<i>Epipactis palustris</i>	C2, §2, CITES
<i>Gentiana asclepiadea</i>	C4a, §3
<i>Gentianella lutescens</i> ssp. <i>carpatica</i>	
<i>Gentianella lutescens</i> ssp. <i>lutescens</i>	
<i>Gladiolus imbricatus</i>	C2, §2
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea montana</i>	C1, §3, CITES
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	C1, §3, CITES
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	C1, §2
<i>Lilium martagon</i>	C4a, §3
<i>Listera ovata</i>	C4, CITES
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	C1, §2, CITES
<i>Orchis pallens</i>	C2, §2, CITES
<i>Orchis ustulata</i>	C1, §2, CITES
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	C3, §3, CITES
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	C3, §3, CITES
<i>Primula veris veris</i>	C4a
<i>Ranunculus platanifolius</i>	
<i>Salix elaeagnos</i>	C2
<i>Traunsteinera globosa</i>	C2, §2, CITES
<i>Trifolium ochroleucum</i>	C3
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	
<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>	
<i>Blysmus compressus</i>	
<i>Campanula cervicaria</i>	
<i>Campanula glomerata</i>	
<i>Cyanus mollis</i>	
<i>Eleocharis quinqueflora</i>	
<i>Gymnadenia densiflora</i>	
<i>Orchis morio</i>	
<i>Oxycoccus palustris</i>	
<i>Parnassia palustris</i>	
<i>Pedicularis palustris</i>	
<i>Scorzonera humilis</i>	

Cardaminopsis halleri	
Cirsium acaule	
Gentianopsis ciliata	
Ononis arvensis	
Pedicularis sylvatica	
Potentilla aurea	
Potentilla recta	
Tretorhiza cruciata	
Chamaecytisus supinus	
Prunella laciniata	
Tromsdorfia maculata	

List of protected and endangered taxa in protected area Beskydy

List of abbreviations (categories of threat)

C1 – critically endangered (IUCN)

C2 – endangered (IUCN)

C3 – vulnerable (IUCN)

§1 – critically endangered (document of Ministry of environment CR)

§2 – endangered (document of Ministry of environment CR)

§3 – vulnerable (document of Ministry of environment CR)

EU – taxa included in regulation number 92/43/EEC

BERN – taxa included in the Bern convention

CITES – taxa included in the Washington convention

WORLD – taxa included in the World Red Book

ČK – taxa included in the Czech Red Book

Protected and endangered animal species of the PLA Beskydy

Mammals

Latin name	English name
Canis lupus	Wolf
Ursus arctos	Brown bear
Lynx lynx	Eurasian Lynx
Myotis myotis	Large mouse-eared bat
Plecotus auritus	Long-eared bat
Lutra lutra	Otter
Dryomys nitedula	Forest dormouse
Sorex alpinus	Alpine shrew
Sicista betulina	Northern birch mouse
Rhinolophus hiposideros	Lesser horseshoe bat

Other

Vipera berus	Viper
Astacus fluviatilis	
Triturus montandoni	Carpathian newt
Papilio machaon	Swallowtail
Iphiclides podalirius	Scarce Swallowtail

Coronella austriaca	Smooth-snake
Lacerta vivipara	Viviparous-lizard
Anguis fragilis	Slow-worm
Hyla arborea	European tree frog
Parnassius mnemosyne	Clouded Apollo
Phoxinus phoxinus	
Cottus poecilopus	
Cottus gobio	
Bufo viridis	Green toad

Birds

Ciconia nigra	Black Stork
Aegolius funereus	Tengmalm's Owl
Tetrao urogallus	Capercaillie
Accipiter gentilis	Goshawk
Strix uralensis	Ural Owl
Dendrocopos leucotos	White-backed Woodpecker
Crex crex	Corncrake
Alcedo atthis	Kingfisher
Tyto alba	Barn Owl
Picoides tridactylus	Three-toes Woodpecker
Lanius collurio	Red-backed Shrike
Tetrastes bonasia	Hazel Hen
Turdus torquatus	Ring-Euzel
Columba oenas	Stock-Dove
Pernis apivorus	Honey-Buzzard
Bubo bubo	Eagle-Owl
Corvus corax	Raven
Muscicapa striata	Spotted Flycatcher
Glaucidium passerinum	Pygmy Owl
Accipiter nisus	Sparrow-Hank
Coturnix coturnix	Quail
Ficedula parva	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Falco subbuteo	Hobby
Sylvia nisoria	Barred Warbler
Saxicola rubetra	Whinchat
Saxicola torquata	Stonechat
Ciconia ciconia	White Stork
Carpodacus erythrinus	Black Stork
Nucifraga caryocatactes	Nutcracker
Scolopax rusticola	Woodcock
Hirundo rustica	Swallow

Areas of the most valuable meadows:

Dinotice 150 ha

Přelač - 40 ha
Podlízaná - 3 ha
V Ondrových - 7 ha
Střelnice - 5 ha
Radhošť - 25 ha
Misná - 5 ha
Peciválka - 3 ha
Křižný - 15 ha
Šerhovny - Beskyd - 30 ha
Soláň - 10 ha
Jaseníková - 6 ha
Malá Kobylská - 5 ha
Adámky - 17 ha
Pálenice - 21 ha
Benešky - 55 ha
Koncová - 18 ha
Stanovnice - 15 ha
Bezníková - 30 ha
Kotlina -Ujmisko - 10 ha
Břežítá - Čubov - 15 ha
Hluboké - 6 ha
Losový - 40 ha
Buchlov - 5 ha
Potoky - 6 ha
Černánská Kyčera - 15 ha
Kýchová - 15 ha
Hluboček - 6 ha
Galovské lúky - 25 ha
Uherská - 20 ha
Stříbrník - 35 ha
Nivka - 50 ha
Leskovec - 36 ha
Štědroňov - 10 ha
Radošov - Hajdovy paseky - 25 ha
Pulčín - 15 ha
Javorníček - 120 ha
Zorymbek - 10 ha
Jelitov - 15 ha
Mionší - 10 ha
Filůvka - 15 ha
Kyčmol - 10 ha
Lušová - 50 ha

Information regarding the most valuable meadows

The above list represents the elementary overview of the valuable meadows protected by being listed in the 1st zone of the PLA, e.g. change of culture restriction, intensive use and fertilization restriction. Most of the meadows are situated in secluded areas with difficult access but with very high biological and landscape values. They are an integrate part of the traditional extant landscape character. The biodiversity is endangered by leaving the parcels and desisting from extensive farming.

Furthermore, there are 15 small-size protected areas (natural reservation and monuments) of meadows and pastures enlisted in 2nd zone of increased protection. These areas are significant in size (thousands of hectares) and have a great biodiversity importance

The most of the valuable meadows occurs in elevation 500-850 m in mountain range of Javorniky (50%), Vsetinske vrchy (40%) and in mountain areas of mostly forested Beskydy mountain range (10%).

BESKYDY PLA BUDGET FOR THE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT:

1996	20 000 CZK
1997	1 800 000 CZK
1998	2 300 000 CZK
1999	4 500 000 CZK
2000	5 500 000 CZK
2001	6 500 000 CZK
2002	2 670 000 CZK (41% of the 2001 budget)

ANNEX 4: Public Participation Strategy and Final Pre- selection of farmers (stakeholders consultations during the PDF A stage)

Stakeholder/farmers involvement (paragraph on page 23):

During the PDF A, 3 local stakeholder consultations were held. In addition, over 60 one-on-one meetings with farmers in the project area were held and 1 coordination meeting on the national level with representatives of MoE, MoA, various research institutes, PLAs, Farmers Union, NGOs, Organic Production Control Institute and others. Further, individual meetings with PLA, MoE and MoA officials, academia, NGOs and private sector were conducted to discuss the co-financing commitments. Because PLA-farmer cooperation is so important to the strategic approach of the project, Block A preparatory work entailed working closely with the PLA representatives, local managers, botanists, socio-economic experts and farmers in order to compile a short list of farms suitable for involvement in the project.

During the PDF A phase, selection of farmers was done based on the analysis of the current situation, identification of valuable localities and identification of the activities leading to biodiversity protection. The analysis was made in cooperation with PLA administration and with farmers at various stakeholder meetings and local coordination workshops. Individual consultations later on took place to discuss the conditions and terms of the support. There were 22 farmers selected in two pilot areas, namely 13 in Beskydy and 9 in Bile Karpaty. Originally, there were about 28 farmers on the short list considered for receiving the direct incentive payments within the project. This short-list was finalized based on the following general criteria:

- Value of the locality
- Benefits that the incentive payment will bring to the project
- Involvement of the farmers on the real agricultural production (farmers speculating on the subsidies were not involved).

During the PDF A phase following activities were taken to discuss selection of localities and selection of interventions with the farmers:

- Series of **local meetings with stakeholders** held by the core team in Bile Karpaty and Beskydy:
 - first initial meeting on August 1st, 2002 was focused on mutual introduction of the experts, setting and harmonizing the basic principles and aims of the project and appointing the tasks
 - second meeting on September 4th and 5th, 2002 was focussed to discuss the so far activities and further steps in detail
 - third meeting took place on 21st October, 2002
- Continuous **visits at the farms** and discussions with farmers had been taken and provided as one of the most important inputs for the project preparation.

Apart of the local stakeholder meetings and visit at the farms, also the drafts of **Baseline studies on biodiversity status and Sustainability of selected locations** had been presented and discussed with local stakeholders, as well as drafts of the **Baseline of socio-economic studies**.

Beskydy

In close cooperation with the PLA representatives, local managers, botanists, socio-economic experts and farmers short list of farms suitable for involvement in the projects has been created.

The following two criteria have been primarily considered:

1. **Value (the richness of the species) of the location**
2. **The overall level of the farm management**

Based on the first criteria several farmers have been proposed and visited. Every farmer has been individually consulted several times within the preparatory phase with the aim to explain the project rationale and objectives, to get information about the farm, its current economic situation, its future plans, its needs and bottlenecks of further development. After such consultations the list of farmers have been shortened, considering the second criterion.

The following types of interventions had been selected for support within the project:

- Fencing of the selected sites
- Breed extension
- Support of the transport and the veterinary examination – payment for veterinary examination for every transport of the animals.
- Purchase of machinery that is missing on the farm and is necessary for the management of the selected localities which are situated on the steep slopes (hay machine, mowing machine, tractor)
- Purchase of milking machinery - Currently milking is done manually, which is becoming highly time demanding and would be unacceptable with further extension of the breed. Furthermore, better hygiene conditions require the milking machinery.
- Resolving of water for goats

The farmers will be supported individually, however, each farmer will be requested for at least 10% in-kind contribution.

BÍLE KARPATY

The selection of localities based on the set criteria has resulted in selection of 9 farmers covering more than 300 ha of the pastures that has not been so far grazed by goats and sheep.

From several dozens of agriculture farms within the PLA only 10 farmers focus on sheep or goat breeding. There are many farmers which are employed outside the farm and agriculture is not their main income (one of them is manager of Bílé Karpaty working group). Not all farmers were willing to participate in the project and only several fulfilled the criteria of grazing in the special protected areas or in the areas of higher levels of protection (I and II zone).

The following types of interventions had been selected for support within the project:

- Fencing
- Breed extension
- Removal of the overgrowth bushes and trees

- Purchase of machinery that is missing on the farm (i.e. tractor)

The farmers will be supported individually, however, each farmer will be requested for at least 10% in-kind contribution.

During the MSP project, the similar methodology will be used, i.e. organising local stakeholder coordination meetings, trainings and individual meetings. However, the trainings will be more targeted for specific issues and more farmers will be involved. The farmers receiving the project support will be used as resource persons during the trainings and coordination meetings and they will provide facilities for organizing study tours for other farmers and PLA representatives.

ANNEX 5: Endorsement letter and letters of commitment



Nadace Partnerství **/ CZECH ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP FOUNDATION**

Panská 7, 602 00 Brno, Czech Republic; tel. +420 542 422 766; fax +420 542 422 777
Krátká 26, 110 00 Praha 10, Czech Republic; tel./fax +420 274 816 727 pship@ecn.cz

www.nadacepartnerstvi.cz

March 22, 2005 in Brno

Dear Mr. Ben Slay,

On behalf of the Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation – Nadace Partnerství, I would like to express support of the proposal of the project entitled “Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Czech Republic Carpathian Alpine Meadows and Pastures”.

We can confirm our preliminary commitment to co-finance this UNDP/GEF Project in the amount of 24,000 USD from the budget of the Environmental Partnership over the next three years. We are able to finance in-kind support in form of two part time experts working for the project in the Carpathian region.

Sincerely,

Miroslav Kundera
director

Mr. Ben Slay
Director
UNDP Regional Support Centre
Grosslingova 35
811 09 BRATISLAVA
Slovenská republika

Zápis v nadačním rejstříku, vedeného Krajským soudem v Brně oddíl N, vložka 42
IČO: 45 77 35 21, DIČ: 288-45 77 35 21

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Michal Pastvinský

Director of the Global Relations Department

Vršovická 65, 100 10 Prague 10

Tel: 00420267122089

Prague December 3, 2004

Ref: 1862/420/04

Subject: **Letter of Endorsement**


Dear Mr. Slay

This letter expresses the endorsement of the Government of the Czech Republic for the MSP Proposal to the GEF for the project entitled "Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Czech Republic Carpathian Alpine Meadows and Pastures".

The project addresses an area that is of the highest priority in the Czech Republic. The project will also support the commitments made by the Czech Republic as a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was ratified in December 1993, as well as to other biodiversity related conventions and agreements.

We look forward to co-operating with you on the development of this project.

Yours sincerely



Michal Pastvinský
GEF Operational Focal Point

Mr. Ben Slay
Director
UNDP Regional Support Centre
Grosslingova 35
811 09 Bratislava
Slovak Republic

**Nature Conservation Authority,
Czech Republic
Nuselská 39, 140 00 Praha 4
PhDr. Petr Dojeský
Director**

22. November 2004

Dear Mr. Ben Slay,

On behalf of the Nature Conservation Authority of the Czech Republic I would like to express support of the proposal of the project entitled "Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Czech Republic Carpathian Alpine Meadows and Pastures".

We can confirm our preliminary commitment to co-finance this UNDP/GEF Project in the amount 34,000 USD over the next three years in form of experts' time in PLAs Bile Karpaty and Beskydy.

We estimate, that another support of 1,532,355 USD over the next three years will have a form of financial support of the Ministry of Environment to farmers and local land owners in the Carpathian Region in the form of funding schemes for biodiversity grassland management.



Mr. Ben Slay
Director
UNDP Regional Support Centre
Grosslingova 35
811 09 BRATISLAVA
Slovenská republika

Výzkumný ústav zemědělské ekonomiky
Czech Republic

VÚZE

☒ Mánesova 75, 120 58 Praha 2, ☎ 00420 2 227 255 43, FAX 00420 2 227 254 50

Doc. Ing. Dušan Vaněk
Director

D 3 -12- 2004

Dear Mr. Ben Slay,

On behalf of the Research Institute of Agricultural Economics – VÚZE, I would like to express support of the proposal of the project entitled "Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Czech Republic Carpathian Alpine Meadows and Pastures".

We can confirm our preliminary commitment to co-finance this UNDP/GEF Project in the amount of 85,000 USD from the budget of the Institute over the next three years. We are able to finance in-kind support in form of technical and administrative support and two full time experts working for the project in the Carpathian region.

Mr. Ben Slay
Director
UNDP Regional Support Centre
Grosslingova 35
811 09 BRATISLAVA
Slovenská republika



Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic
Těšnov 17
117 05 Praha 1

25.11.2004
Ing. Hrdlička

Ing. Martin Fantýš
Director General
Section of Structural Policy

Prague, 15.11.2004

Dear Mr. Ben Slay,

On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic I would like to express support of the proposal of the project entitled "Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Czech Republic Carpathian Alpine Meadows and Pastures".

We can confirm our preliminary commitment to co-finance this UNDP/GEF Project in the amount approximately up to 7,700,000 USD from the budget of the Ministry over the next three years. We will distribute this financial support to farmers in the Carpathian Region in the form of funding schemes identified in national policies – Horizontal Rural Development Plan and the Operational Programme for extensive grassland management and for organic agriculture development.

We also would like to express our hope that the project approval and launch will be expedited.



Mr. Ben Slay
Director
UNDP Regional Support Centre
Grosslingova 35
811 09 BRATISLAVA
Slovenská republika

ANNEX 6: Incremental Cost matrix

INCREMENTAL COST MATRIX

Benefits and Costs	Baseline	Alternative	Increment
Domestic Benefits	Minimal. Some farmers are able to access subsidies and few are able to market their goods in any meaningful way.	<p>Agriculture becomes more viable and sustainable, benefiting local landowners and local economies.</p> <p>PLAs become important players in the rural economy providing important support to local landowners.</p> <p>Lessons learnt at the local level contribute to the development of agricultural policy</p>	<p>Improved prospects for Czech Republic Protected Landscape Areas to provide or leverage social and economic benefits</p> <p>Enhanced ability of CR nationals in government institutions, NGOs, farmers and local communities to conserve grasslands</p>
Global Benefits	Limited efforts are undertaken to conserve mountain grasslands in the Carpathians, one of the rarest and most threatened habitats in Europe.	Applying new partnerships, resources and re-oriented agricultural practices conserves globally significant biological diversity.	<p>Improvement in conservation of mountain grasslands.</p> <p>Better prospects for securing associated global indirect use values, future use values and existence values.</p> <p>Lessons learnt at the local level contribute to the development of mainstreaming biodiversity practice regionally through the Carpathian Eco region Initiative as well as globally.</p>

Outcomes	Baseline (US\$ over 3 yr period)	Alternative	Increment
Institutional capacity to assess, plan and implement priority conservation management of mountain grasslands taking full advantage of EU funding mechanisms	MoE/NCA: \$1,680,000 PLA management MoE 400,000 Policy development Total: 2,080,000	Total: 2,500,215	MoE 34,000 GEF: 329,300 PLAs: 11,915 Research Institute: 45,000 Total: 420,215
Improvement of farmers' capacity and incentives for and participation in conservation-oriented management of mountain grasslands	MoA: \$7,700,000 MoE/NCA: \$1,520,440 Tradice Karpat Coop: \$640,000 Total: 9,860,000	Total: 19,684,400	MoA: 7,700,000 MoE/NCAs: 1,500,000 GEF: 590,000 Cooperative Romney: 4,300 Farmer contribution 30,000 Total: 9,824,400
Monitoring and evaluation programme for mountain grassland biodiversity conservation management	MoE/NCA 168,000 Research Institutes/ Universities 30,000 Total: 198,000	Total: 374,440	GEF: 80,000 MoE/NCA: 20,440 UNDP Regional office: 36,000 Research Institute 40,000 Total: 176,440
NATIONAL POLICY FOR AGRO-ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES INCORPORATES PROJECT EXPERIENCE			
TOTAL:	BASELINE COST 12,138,000	Alternative cost 22,558,755	Total Incremental: 10,420,755 GEF 999,300 Cofinancing 9,421,655

ANNEX 7: Work plan

Outcome/Outputs	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1: Institutional capacity to assess, plan and implement priority conservation management of mountain grasslands												
1.1 Memorandum of Understanding between MoE and MoA signed												
1.2 GIS capability (staffing, hardware, software) in LPA Administration upgraded												
1.3 Mountain grassland surveys of the two project PLAs carried out using rapid assessment methods												
1.4 Identification of priority mountain grassland sites for conservation management												
1.5 Establishment of mountain grassland management advice units in the project PLAs with trained staff and adequate equipment												
2: Improvement of farmers' capacity and incentives for and participation in conservation-oriented management of mountain grasslands												
2.1 Preparation of information and implementation of management												
2.2 Training provided to individuals or groups												
2.3 Annual seminars held to review management outcomes and funding opportunities												
2.4 Study tours to protected landscapes in other EU countries												
2.5 Creation of a certified marque for locally produced products												
3: Monitoring and evaluation programme												
3.1 Carry out annual monitoring of site biodiversity as well as economic benefits for landowners												
3.2 Analysis of monitoring data to check correspondence with management objectives												
3.3 Annual publication on biodiversity status and ecologically sustainable uses of mountain grasslands												
4: National policy for agro-environment schemes												
4.1 European Conference on mountain grasslands within the framework of the Carpathian Convention												
4.2 MoA Working Group on Agro-environmental Scheme for Mountain Grasslands												
4.3 MoE Working Group on Conservation Management of Mountain Grasslands												



On continuous basis
SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

ANNEX 8: Czech Republic: Conservation of biological diversity of Carpathian Mountain grasslands

Results Framework

PDO and Global Environmental Objective	Outcome Indicators	Use of Results Information
To strengthen the conservation management of globally significant biodiversity in species-rich mountain grassland habitats (grasslands and pastures) in two Protected Landscape Areas (PLAs) in the Carpathian Mountains of the Czech Republic	<p>(a) PLA Administrations fulfilling their statutory duties for mountain grassland conservation in terms of management planning, implementation and monitoring with adequate human and financial resources</p> <p>(b) All relevant stakeholders regarding mountain grassland conservation have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from management schemes</p> <p>(c) The area of existing mountain grassland under conservation management in PLA 's zone 1 reaches 95% and in PLA's zone 2 reaches 75% by end of project</p> <p>(d) The loss mountain grassland habitat is halted and pilot restoration projects commence</p>	<p>YR1 / YR2 – Will gauge effectiveness of components and their interaction.</p> <p>YR3 – Realign activities as required</p>
Intermediate Results One per Component	Results Indicators for Each Component	Use of Outcome Monitoring
<p>Component One</p> <p>Institutional capacity is in place to assess, plan and implement priority conservation management of mountain grasslands taking full advantage of newly available funding mechanisms under the EU Common Agricultural Policy and Natura 2000</p>	<p>Component One</p> <p>1.1 Memorandum of Understanding defining the roles and division of labour between MoE and MoA prepared, signed and implemented</p> <p>1.2 GIS capability (staffing, hardware, software) in NCA Administration upgraded to accommodate survey, monitoring and assessment data for mountain grasslands</p> <p>1.3 Mountain grassland surveys of the two project PLAs carried out using rapid assessment methods</p> <p>1.4 Identification of priority mountain grassland sites for conservation management</p> <p>1.5 Establishment of mountain grassland management advice units in the project PLAs with trained staff and adequate equipment</p>	<p>Component One</p> <p>YR1 – Will indicate extent of effective inter-agency cooperation and infrastructure improvement</p> <p>YR2 / YR 3 – Will flag up problems with strategic assessment of grassland resources and design of management prescriptions</p>
<p>Component Two</p> <p>Farmers' capacity and incentives for and participation in conservation-oriented management of mountain grasslands is improved</p>	<p>Component Two</p> <p>2.1 Preparation of information about funding schemes for grassland owners in the two project PLAs, and implementation of management (see below)</p> <p>2.2 Training provided to individuals or groups, focusing on sustainable livestock management and production</p>	<p>Component Two</p> <p>YR1 / YR 2 – Will flag up problems with farmer uptake of grassland management prescriptions</p> <p>YR 3 – Will indicate if farmers are improving</p>

	<p>2.3 Annual seminars held for grassland owners in each project PLA, to review management outcomes and funding opportunities for following fiscal year</p> <p>2.4 Study tours to examine application of agro-environment schemes in protected landscapes in other EU countries</p> <p>2.5 Creation of a certified marque for locally produced products based on environmentally-beneficial management of mountain grasslands</p>	sustainable grassland management practices
<p>Component Three</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation programme for mountain grassland biodiversity conservation management in place</p>	<p>Component Three</p> <p>3.1 Carry out annual monitoring of site biodiversity as well as economic benefits for landowners</p> <p>3.2 Analysis of monitoring data to check correspondence with management objectives</p> <p>3.3 Annual publication on biodiversity status and ecologically sustainable economic uses of mountain grasslands including results from monitoring and recommended management alterations</p>	<p>Component Three</p> <p>YR1 / YR2 – Will flag up any problems with compliance with management prescriptions</p> <p>YR3 – Will indicate if products from sustainable grassland management are produced efficiently and have markets</p>
<p>Component Four</p> <p>National policy for agro-environment schemes incorporates project experience</p>	<p>Component Four</p> <p>4.1 European Conference on conservation management and ecologically sustainable use of mountain grasslands within the framework of the Carpathian Convention</p> <p>4.2 MoA Working Group on Agro-environmental Scheme for Mountain Grasslands</p> <p>4.3 MoE Working Group on Conservation Management of Mountain Grasslands</p>	<p>Component Four</p> <p>YR1 / YR2 – Will assess the degree of project feedback into policy-making</p> <p>YR3 – Will assess the impact of project results on national and international practice for mountain grassland management</p>

ANNEX 9: Monitoring Plan

Indicators	Baseline	YR1	YR2	YR3	Frequency and Reports	Data Collection Instruments	Responsibility for Data Collection
Outcome Indicators							
PLA Administrations fulfilling their statutory duties for mountain grassland conservation in terms of management planning, implementation and monitoring with adequate human and financial resources	2003 reports	33%	66%	100%	Annually	Reports to central NCA Administration	MoE
All relevant stakeholders regarding mountain grassland conservation have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from management schemes	PDF-A stakeholder analysis	33%	66%	100%	Annually	Seminar reports	PMU
The area of existing mountain grassland under conservation management in PLA's zone 1 reaches 95% and in PLA's zone 2 reaches 75% by end of project	2003 assessment	33%	66%	100%	Annually	Management agreements	PLA / PMU
The loss mountain grassland habitat is halted and pilot restoration projects commence	2003 assessment	–	–	–	Annually	PLA grassland monitoring system	PLA / PMU
Results Indicators for Each Component							
Component One:							
1.1 Memorandum of Understanding defining the roles and division of labour between MoE and MoA prepared, signed and implemented	–	100%	–	–	YR1	MoU	PMU
1.2 GIS capability (staffing, hardware, software) in LPA Administration upgraded to accommodate survey, monitoring and assessment data for mountain grasslands	–	50%	100%	–	Annually	Project reports; mapping outputs	PMU
1.3 Mountain grassland surveys of the two project PLAs carried out using rapid assessment methods	–	100%	–	–	YR1	PLA grassland monitoring system	PLA / PMU
1.4 Identification of priority mountain grassland sites for conservation management	–	–	100%	–	Annually	Project report	PLA / PMU
1.5 Establishment of mountain grassland management advice units in the project PLAs with trained staff and adequate equipment	–	50%	100%	–	Annually	Project report; Reports to central PLA Administration	PLA / PMU
Component Two							
2.1 Preparation of information about funding schemes for	–	50%	75%	100%	Annually	Project report; Management	MoA / PMU

Indicators	Baseline	YR1	YR2	YR3	Frequency and Reports	Data Collection Instruments	Responsibility for Data Collection
grassland owners in the two project PLAs, and implementation of management (see below)						agreements; Returns to MoA	
2.2 Training provided to individuals or groups, focusing on sustainable livestock management and production	–	33%	66%	100%	Annually	Project report; training documents	PMU
2.3 Annual seminars held for grassland owners in each project PLA, to review management outcomes and funding opportunities for following fiscal year	–	33%	66%	100%	Annually	Meeting report	PLA / PMU
2.4 Study tours to examine application of agro-environment schemes in protected landscapes in other EU countries	–	–	50%	100%	Annually	Project report	PMU
2.5 Creation of a certified marque for locally produced products based on environmentally-beneficial management of mountain grasslands	–	25%	75%	100%	Annually	Project report, press coverage	PMU
Component Three							
3.1 Carry out annual monitoring of site biodiversity as well as economic benefits for landowners	–	33%	66%	100%	Annually	Project report	IAE / PLA / PMU
3.2 Analysis of monitoring data to check correspondence with management objectives	–		50%	100%	Annually	Project report	PLA / IAE / PMU
3.3 Annual publication on biodiversity status and ecologically sustainable economic uses of mountain grasslands including results from monitoring and recommended management alterations	–	33%	66%	100%	Annually	Publication	IAE / PLA / PMU
Component Four							
4.1 European Conference on conservation management and ecologically sustainable use of mountain grasslands within the framework of the Carpathian Convention	–	5%	10%	100%	Annually	Conference documentation	MoE / PMU
4.2 MoA Working Group on Agro-environmental Scheme for Mountain Grasslands	–	33%	66%	100%	Annually	Meeting minutes	MoA / PMU
4.3 MoE Working Group on Conservation Management of Mountain Grasslands	–	33%	66%	100%	Annually	Meeting minutes	MoE / PMU