

GEF

Global Environment Facility

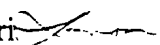
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Facsimile Cover Sheet

DATE: January 19, 1999 No. of Pages: 1
Inc. Cover sheet

TO: Lars Vidæus PHONE:
ORGANIZATION: Chief Global Environment Division FAX: 202-522-3256

FROM: Kanta Kumari  PHONE: (202) 473-4269
Program Manager FAX: (202) 522-3240

CC: A. Duda, M. Ramos, H. Acquay, Chona Cruz and R. de Mesa

SUBJECT: PDF A: Slovak Republic: Central European Grasslands, Conservation and Sustainable Development

Message:

Dear Lars,

As requested, we have reviewed the above PDF A and would like to offer the following comments.

(i) The lead agency DAPHNE is an NGO whose strength is in applied ecology, while the project calls for a wider range of expertise dealing with policy reforms and community based participatory expertise to deal with the farmer community etc. It is hoped that the NGO will work closely with the necessary stakeholders, and that they would be involved in the final implementation of the project.

(ii) In view of the large farm landscape of the area, and necessary reforms, the baseline and incremental costs should be clearly set out.

We apologize for the delay in the comments relating to the above PDF A, but hope that the comments would be taken on board as the NGO proceeds to prepare the project.

Thank you.

Log No. 98-556

GEFSEC Project Tracking System

Response Due Date: 12/25/98

Correspondence Description

Addressed to: **Mr. Kenneth King**

Correspondence Date: 12/16/98

Date Received: 12/16/98

Organization: World Bank

From: Lars Vidaeus

Assigned To: K. Kumari

Status: Open

Type: Fax

Topic: PDF Block A Request - Slovak Republic - Central European Grasslands, Conservation and Sustainable Development

Action Instructions

- ☐ For Bilateral meeting
- ☐ For information only. No action needed.
- ☐ Please handle/respond on behalf of Mr. Kenneth King and provide a copy.
- ☐ Please handle/respond on behalf of Mr. Mohamed El-Ashry and provide a copy.
- ☐ Please prepare a draft response and return to Program Coordinator
- ☐ Please reply directly and provide a copy.
- ☒ Please review and/or technical comments

Special Instructions

Information Copies Sent To:

M. Ramos, H. Acquay, W. Lusigi, M. Cruz, J. Taylor

*Electronically
attached
Sotus Notes*

Projects File Room Location:

Note: A copy/original of the document is being sent directly to your attention.

Please return this page with a copy of the incoming correspondence and the reply/action taken to Program File Manager (GEFSEC Project File Room) before or by due date with the original copy of the correspondence and the reply/action.


TO: GEF SECRETARIAT

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 16, 1998

TO: See Distribution Below

FROM: Lars Vidacus, GEF Executive Coordinator



EXTENSION: 34188

SUBJECT: **PDF Block A Request –Slovak Republic – Central European Grasslands,
Conservation and Sustainable Development**

Please find attached a PDF Block A for the above-mentioned project. We would appreciate your comments by December 23rd, 1998. Thank you.

Distribution:

R. Asenjo, UNDP (Fax: 1212-906-6998)

A. Djoghla, UNEP (Nairobi) (Fax: 254-2-520-825)

R. Khanna, UNEP (Washington) (Fax: 202-331-4225)

cc: Messrs./Mmes

K. King, GEF Program Coordination, GEF Secretariat (Fax: 23240);

M. Gadgil, STAP (Fax: 91-80-334-1683 or 91-80-331-5428)

Sharma, MacKinnon, Mikitin, Bossard, Towsey (ENV), ENVGC ISC

BLOCK A PDF

1. Project name: Central European Grasslands –Conservation and Sustainable Use	2. GEF Implementing Agency: World Bank
3. Country or countries in which the project is being implemented: Slovak Republic	4. Country eligibility: CBD ratified by the Slovak Republic on August 23, 1994.
5. GEF focal area(s), and/or cross-cutting issues: Biodiversity	6. Operational program/Short-term measure: The proposed Project falls within the Mountain and Freshwater Ecosystems Operational Programs (OP 2 and 4)
<p>7. Project linkage to national priorities, action plans, and programs: The proposed Project embodies key goals and associated strategic actions of the National Biodiversity Strategy/Action Plan, approved by the National Council of the Slovak Republic on July 2, 1997. These include:</p> <p>(a) <i>Goal:</i> "Identify the status of biodiversity components". <i>Strategic Actions:</i> Identify the gaps in knowledge concerning the status of biodiversity components.</p> <p>(b) <i>Goal:</i> "Manage threatening processes". <i>Strategic Actions:</i> Identify the threatening processes and assess their impacts as well as develop and implement measures required to prevent loss of biodiversity from land fragmentation and abandonment.</p> <p>(c) <i>Goal:</i> "Strengthen in-situ conservation of biodiversity". <i>Strategic Actions:</i> Create conditions conducive for maintaining viable populations of species in natural surroundings, including strengthening the management of protected areas through the preparation and implementation of management plans.</p> <p>(d) <i>Goal:</i> "Ecologically sustainable agricultural and pastoral management" <i>Strategic Actions:</i> Promote ecologically sustainable farming, especially in protected areas and convert plowed land on steep slopes and flooded areas to meadows and pastures.</p> <p>(e) <i>Goal:</i> "Promote all forms of education and awareness on conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of its components". <i>Strategic Actions:</i> Provide training in ecologically sound management practices to private land users and develop and maintain information centers and interpretative trails.</p>	
8. GEF national operational focal point and date of country endorsement: Ministry of Environment – July 3, 1998.	
9. Project rationale and objectives: <i>Project Rationale</i> - Slovakia has three types of Central European grasslands: (a) floodplain meadows; (b) mountain meadows; and (c) alpine meadows. All of these, except the alpine meadows, are semi-natural ecosystems – the result of centuries old land-use patterns. Representing varied and harmonious landscapes, these meadows contain high levels of biodiversity, matching, if not	

surpassing, that of the natural areas. The endemic species of the Eastern Carpathians meadows are but one example of the richness of the biodiversity of these ecosystems.

Stable landscapes, like the Slovakian meadows, where adjustments have been made over long periods to the interaction between human economies and natural resources, are of considerable historical and social interest and invaluable for the lessons they hold for biodiversity conservation as well as the ecological benefits they yield, such as water purification and retention, flood control, etc. Many of these landscapes also are valuable reservoirs of genetic materials, such as crop and domestic animal varieties associated with land-use patterns that have disappeared from areas managed under the large scale agriculture of the recent past.

During the socialist period, heavy subsidies to the agricultural sector contributed to species rich meadows in many mountain and lowland areas being brought under cultivation which, along with the use of hybrid seed mixtures, over-fertilization and intensive grazing, resulted in habitat degradation and destruction. The transition to a market based economy has exacerbated the problems facing the meadows. In particular, privatization of state owned enterprises and cooperative farms and the loss of subsidies have led to a dramatic decline in number of cattle and sheep and, in turn, to abandonment of unprofitable meadow areas. These are now under attack from weeds and invasive plant species that are seriously threatening the bio-diversity of these Central European grasslands.

Awareness of what the loss of bio-diversity implies for human well-being has increased markedly in recent years, within both the Slovak Government and the civil society. This is reflected in the measures initiated by the authorities aimed at bio-diversity restoration and conservation. In addition to becoming a party to relevant international and regional conventions, Slovakia has made significant progress in strengthening the legal and institutional framework for the protection and conservation of the country's environmental capital. With GEF support, Slovakia completed the National Bio-diversity Strategy/Action Plan, which was approved by Parliament, and is also implementing an innovative project ('Bio-diversity Protection Project') involving *inter alia* the protection of three zones of representative threatened ecosystems – meadows (Tatras), wetlands (Morava Floodplain) and mountain forests (Eastern Carpathians) through trans-boundary cooperation. The project has yielded invaluable information for identifying appropriate mowing techniques, establishing sustainable nutrient inputs regimes and developing methods for restoring cultivated lands to species rich meadows. This information, if fact, formed the basis for developing phase one of the Phare supported project for the 'Restoration of Meadows in the Lower Morava Floodplain', which focuses on institution building and promoting cooperation between farmers/owners of land, PLA Zahorie and DAPHNE – the sponsoring agency for the proposed Medium-Sized Project.

Building on the experience with the ongoing operations and, in order to reaffirm its commitment to the implementation of the BSAP, the Government has given priority to the restoration and conservation of the Eastern European grasslands of Slovakia, focusing initially on four target areas that contain species rich meadows. These include the meadows of the Slovensky raj National Park (SrNP), Mala Fatra National Park (MFNP),

Olsavica valley and the Morava River.

The mountain meadows of SrNP, cover about 10% of the park, but contain more than one-third (350) of the park's plant species. Likewise, the mountain and sub-alpine meadows of MFNP cover only about 20% of the park, but contain more than 50% of the its plant species (450). The meadows of SRNP and MFNP also produce the most nutritional hay and have an exceptionally high occurrence of medical plants; only 35% of these have been documented so far.

The meadows of the Olsavica valley in the Levocske mountains, though only 10 square kilometers in area, are typical of other flysch mountain meadows in Slovakia. These meadows are threatened by increased water erosion and floods caused by inappropriate land management, including the plowing of meadows. As for the floodplains of the Morava River, these cover an area of about 28 square kilometers and are the largest complex of species rich floodplain meadows of Central Europe, providing foraging and nesting habitats for numerous bird species.

Project Objective – The primary objective of the proposed Project is to assist Slovakia in the restoration and conservation of its Central European grasslands. Specifically, consistent with biological conservation, it would promote the sustainable use of the meadows of the SrNP, MFNP, Olsavica valley and Levocske mountains through: (a) the preparation and implementation of restoration and management plans; (b) the introduction of incentives to encourage farmers to adopt bio-diversity friendly and sustainable meadow management practices; and (c) dissemination of information on best practices.

In addition, as the target meadows are similar to many others in Slovakia and throughout Central Europe, lessons learnt under the proposed Project could be replicated in the future in Poland, Hungary and Romania (especially in the massive area of the Carpathians)

10. Expected outcomes:

- ☐ Restoration and Management Plans for Grasslands of the four target meadows prepared and implemented.
- ☐ Policies having a perverse impact on the management of the meadows identified and incentive schemes for adopting a biodiversity friendly practices developed to provide a framework for grassland management..
- ☐ Public awareness increased about the biodiversity value of the grasslands and the economic benefits resulting from their improved management.
- ☐ Monitoring system established

11. Planned activities to achieve outcomes:

- ☐ Assessment of the biodiversity of the four target meadows. The assessment will analyze existing data on the flora and fauna of the meadows as well as additional data to be collected through the grassland monitoring system.
- ☐ Development of a data base for the grassland ecosystem and strengthening GIS capability, developed for the Morava Floodplains.
- ☐ Organization of workshops to involve relevant stakeholders (farmers and Authorities on the National Parks and Protected Areas) in the preparation of grasslands management plans, including the incentive scheme.

<input type="checkbox"/> Obtaining commitments and conservation agreements from farmers for the management of the grasslands. <input type="checkbox"/> Preparation of Restoration and Management Plans for the for target meadows, including monitorable indicators of success. <input type="checkbox"/> Preparation and dissemination of booklets about the biodiversity of grasslands and information tables for the National Parks. <input type="checkbox"/> Analysis for the economic valuation of biodiversity related benefits.	
12. Stakeholders involved in project: <input type="checkbox"/> Farmers – key group for the sustainable use of the meadows. <input type="checkbox"/> Managers of Protected Areas – important stakeholders for safeguarding biodiversity. <input type="checkbox"/> Local communities and NGOs – indirectly influence management and conservation. <input type="checkbox"/> Officials of the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture – stakeholders with purview over legal and financial framework of the management plans.	
13. Activities to be financed by the PDF: <input type="checkbox"/> Four workshops with farmers, managers of protected areas, representatives of local communities, NGOs and Government officials. <input type="checkbox"/> Baseline biological surveys and estimation of incremental costs	
14. Expected outputs and completion dates: Proposal for a Medium-sized Project to be completed: May 1999	
15. Other possible contributors/donors and amounts: EU- Phare program US\$1,000 for one Workshop (Morava River Floodplains Daphne – US\$2,000 in kind	
16. Total budget and information on how costs will be met (including the Block A grant): Workshops - US\$7,000 (GEF US\$6,000 + EU Phare US\$1,000) Surveys - US\$18,000 (GEF US\$16,000 + Daphne US\$2,000) Total US\$25,000 (GEF US\$22,000 + Cofinancing US\$3,000)	
17. Name: DAPHNE – Center for Applied Ecology (NGO)	18. Date of establishment, membership, and leadership: December 1, 1993 7 full-time and 3 half-time employees Contracted services of more than 30 experts in 1997 Director: Dr. Jan Seffer Vice-Director: Mag Viera Stanova
19. Mandate/terms of reference: DAPHNE – Center for Applied Ecology is a independent national institute with focus on improving biological diversity and restoring the integrity of Central European ecosystems.	20. Sources of revenue: The organization's total revenues in 1997 reached US\$100,000. The main sources of revenues were EU-Phare, WWF International, Ministry of Environment, etc.
21. Recent activities/programs, in particular those relevant to the GEF: DAPHNE,	

in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environment has implemented several projects in the framework of GEF Biodiversity Protection Project in Slovakia.

22. Project identification number:

23. Implementing Agency contact person: Mahesh Sharma, Regional Operations Coordinator, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Region, GEF Coordinating Unit, World Bank. Tel: (202) 473-2296. E-mail: Msharma1@worldbank.org

24. Project linkage to Implementing Agency program(s): Country Assistance Strategy, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Biodiversity Protection Project

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Daphne.pdf.doc
Dec. 16, 1998