



Administrația
Parcului Național
Munții Rodnei



Environmental
Change Institute
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Youth Participation in Protected Area Management in Rodna Mountains, Romania

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NEWS:

- ✿ **Announcing an international symposium: "Participating in Nature. Communities and Protected Areas in CEE" - Bistrita, March 2008 (p. 4)**
- ✿ **The first field guide to representative species from the park is on the way!**
- ✿ **Announcing a third seminar to analyse and disseminate project results - Rodna, December 2007 (p. 4)**
- ✿ **Darwin Clubs camp reached 4th edition**
- ✿ **Project team members traveled to Slovakia and Bulgaria for an exchange of experience with other protected areas**
- ✿ **"European Funds for People and Nature" a seminar organised in Borsa, in March 2007**

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Reflections

Here we are, seven months away from project completion and it is appropriate to summarise and reflect on the variety of data and experiences gathered over two and a half years.

I note with pleasure that project activities have been on track and much has been accomplished, although, as always, there is still much we would like to achieve.

Innovative and ambitious, this project aimed to involve young students in the management of Rodna Mountains National Park (Rodna Mountains NP). For the first time in Romania 10-18 year olds have conducted biodiversity surveys and monitoring activities and have had a real chance to participate in decisions regarding the future of this park.

The learning curve has been very steep, with the Administration of the Rodna Mountains NP (APNMR) climbing it steadily. The project offered a great opportunity for both personal and professional development,

and we can proudly say that the RMNP is in a much better position today than where it would have been in the absence of this project.

A few outstanding achievements are worth highlighting: we succeeded in developing the



Lacerta agilis, Sand Lizard
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first management plan for this park; the APNMR has benefited from training courses, equipment, conferences and visits to other parks abroad, alongside constant guidance and support from the UK partners; 100+ young students have taken part in project activities and have learned to care for, and study habitats and species found in the park; several training materials, brochures and a field guide to

representative species from the park have been produced; and not least, an NGO, ECO RODNA, was created to continue activities initiated by this project. Moreover, park and community relations have improved.

This original model developed in the Rodna Mountains National Park is currently being documented to facilitate its implementation in other protected areas from Romania and elsewhere. A seminar with Romanian participants will be held in December to discuss and promote the model, and an international symposium will be organized in March next year to facilitate an exchange with models and experiences from other countries.

Enjoy this newsletter and please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to get involved (see details on page 4).

See you in the Rodna Mountains!

*Alina Szabo - project manager,
ECI, Oxford*

European Funds for People and Nature

In March 2007 APNMR organised in Borșa a seminar to explore European Union funding opportunities for environmental projects. Participants included representatives of local communities as well as specialists from WWF Danube-Carpathians Programme and the Intermediary

Body for Environmental Structural Funds from Cluj-Napoca (responsible for Transylvania). The purpose of the seminar was to facilitate collaboration between the park and the local communities, to identify major challenges to biodiversity and livelihoods in the area, and to

find suitable solutions that could be incorporated in common project grant applications.

