



The GEF Small Grants Programme Supporting Civil Society in the Black Sea Region

**Adriana Craciun
National Coordinator for Romania**

Synergies between donors and civil society in the Black Sea area

1st of November 2008

Highlighting

- **The UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme**
- **Lesson from success and failure**
- **Potential for regional NGO Cooperation**
- **Where donors might look for future support**

GEF SGP

○ Overall Programme Aim:

The Global Environment Facility's SGP aims to deliver global environmental benefits in the GEF Focal Areas of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, protection of international waters, prevention of land degradation (primarily desertification and deforestation), and elimination of persistent organic pollutants through community-based approaches

○ Black Sea Countries


- Romania
- Bulgaria
- Turkey

SGP objectives

The principle objectives of the Small Grants Programme are to:

- Develop community-level strategies and implement technologies that could reduce threats to the global environment if they are replicated over time.
- Gather lessons from community-level experience and initiate the sharing of successful community-level strategies and innovations among CBOs and NGOs, host governments, development aid agencies, GEF and others working on a regional or global scale.
- Build partnerships and networks of stakeholders to support and strengthen community, NGO and national capacities to address global environmental problems and promote sustainable development.
- Ensure that conservation and sustainable development strategies and projects that protect the global environment are understood and practised by communities and other key stakeholders.

GEF SGP



- **Projects contain capacity building for the empowerment of local communities and practical activities leading to obtaining benefits for the environment and communities**
- **Projects are based on local ideas following a participatory process**
- **The projects are locally managed, by local NGO/CBO in partnership with other local stakeholders**
- **Projects have clear and SMART objectives; activities have measurable results**
- **There is a network of NGO grantees – exchange of info, best practices, etc.**

GEF SGP



- **Concept paper – received continuously**
- **Call for Proposals: 1-2/ year**
 - Strategy
 - **Dedicated Application Guidelines – instrument for the applicant explaining thoroughly how to ensure the eligibility of the project proposal, in line with SGP requirements**

GEF SGP Romania

- In Romania SGP was launched in December 2004
- 49 grants till present, US\$1.3M in total
- Most grants address biodiversity conservation and climate change
- Applicants: NGOs and CBOs
- Partners: local administrations/ municipalities, schools, research institutes, academia, private sector, etc.
- Programme strategy to show impacts (incl. at project level):
 - Environmental
 - Socio-economic (poverty reduction)
 - Empowerment (public participation at decision making).

GEF SGP Bulgaria

- In Bulgaria SGP was launched in March 2006
- 54 grants till present, US\$1.6M in total
- Most grants address biodiversity conservation, land degradation and climate change
- Applicants: NGOs and CBOs
- Partners: local administrations - municipalities, private sector, schools, research institutes, academia, etc.
- Programme strategy to show impacts (incl. at project level):
 - Environmental
 - Socio-economic (poverty reduction)
 - Capacity-building and networking

GEF SGP Turkey

- In Turkey SGP was launched in 1993.
- 146 grants till present, US\$3.3M in total, amounting to over US\$7M with co-financing.
- Since July 2007, SGP Turkey, being a RAF country, provides grants only in BD and CC focal areas.
- Applicants: NGOs and CBOs
- Partners: local administrations/ municipalities, schools, research institutes, academia, private sector, etc.
- Programme strategy to show impacts (incl. at project level):
 - Environmental
 - Socio-economic (poverty reduction)
 - Capacity-building and networking

SGP fields of impact

- **More Successful**
 - Awareness raising at community level: environmental and policy issues
 - Local and national policy influence (Natura 2000)
 - Realization of income generating activities based on sustainable use of biodiversity resources (eco-tourism, biological agriculture, secondary forestry products, etc.)
 - Raised capacity for fundraising
 - Projects upscaled and replicated
 - Mentoring of NGOs and CBOs and acting as a trigger for further cooperation both among themselves and with other actors
- **Less Successful**
 - capacity among CBO's is still fairly low
 - Less potential for complex projects in topics such as climate change and POPs (unless coupled with small businesses and/or r&d funds)

Potential regional cooperation

○ GEF SGP role

- Projects based on community needs: cooperation CSO/CBOs, communities and LAs
- Policy influence at national level: cooperation with central government
- Co-financing: cooperation with corporate, authorities, local communities etc
- CSO-CSO cooperation mostly at local level

○ Cooperation issues:

- Additional effort for what impact
- Identify 'true' common contexts
 - ☒ Regional
 - ☒ Topical
- Credibility with other stakeholders (business, government)
- Broaden appeal to wider international community
- Access to information

Ideas for donor support

- ✓ Information/training to build NGO understanding of the legal framework.
- ✓ Support given to governments in developing supportive tax regulations for NGOs.
- ✓ Donors to better co-ordinate both between themselves and NGOs on priorities.
- ✓ Consider NGOs' real capacities when setting funding conditions (allow staffing & operational costs, fair payment & co-financing conditions; provide longer-term & regular funding cycles).
- ✓ To give more training on fundraising, especially on fundraising strategies & complex applications (EC).
- ✓ Help build organisational capacities of NGOs (not just projects). Allow, through their aid programmes, the NGOs to cover staff salaries and invest in staff development
- ✓ Tailored capacity building for NGOs, both knowledge and skills.
- ✓ Assist the development of environmental/information networks in the region.
- Support co-operation and communication between NGOs, government and media.
- Offer capacity building for officials to overcome the current gaps in practical implementation practices on access to information and public participation issues.

Thank you for your attention



<http://sgp.undp.org/>

<http://www.sgp-romania.ro>

<http://www.sgp-bulgaria.org>

<http://www.gefsgp.net/v1/>

adriana.craciun@undp.org

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.