



UNDP GEF Black Sea Ecosystem Recovery Project

BSERP Small Grants Programme

Objective of the Small Grants Programme of the GEF/UNDP Black Sea Ecosystem Recovery Project was to *strengthen public participation in environmental protection* through access to information, stakeholder training and awareness raising and implementation of community actions (Small Grants Programme).

Phase 1 of the NGO Small Grants Programme (SGP) was started in 2003. 17 individual projects were supported with grants ranging from \$ 5,000 to \$30,000.

| Subject Area | Countries (#Projects) | Total Project # | Percent Contributions | Amount (USD) |
|---|--|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Restoration and conservation of wetlands | Russia (1) Ukraine (2) | 3 | 10.5% | 24,403 |
| Promotion of organic agriculture | Bulgaria (1) Romania (1) | 2 | 14.5% | 34,069 |
| Low-cost waste water treatment techniques | Bulgaria (1) Ukraine (1) | 2 | 9.3% | 21,890 |
| Production of public awareness materials on the Black Sea environment | Bulgaria (1) Romania (3) Russia (2) Turkey (2) Ukraine (2) | 10 | 65.7% | 154,178 |
| Total | | 17 | | 234,540 |

Key results of BSERP SGP:

The dominating form of NGO activities was **general awareness raising** about the main BS issues.

Improved NGO competence on BS issues.

Strengthened capacities of NGOs: For most NGOs this was the first international grant experience. They learned how to manage projects, use intl. donor grants, do media work, cooperate with other stakeholders, network with other NGOs in- and outside country etc.

Improved identity: The grants contributed to a reflection of the self-understanding of the NGOs (role/function/mandate, needs/tasks, strengths/weaknesses, dimension/limits of impact).

New or improved **recognition** of NGOs as local and national key stakeholders (for government bodies, municipalities, industry, intl. organisations, media, local people).

Grants resulted in a strongly **improved awareness of the local public**. i.e. *thousands* of school kids, *dozens* of journalists in each country about the pressing BS problems, transboundary effects and the local people's impact on/responsibility for the BS environment.



Phase 2 of this SGP was realised from Aug 2006 to Sept 2007. Early 2006: Invitation to submit short *project concepts* to the CTL offices. April 2006: Each CTL office with assistance of the BSERP office in Istanbul and a representative of the Black Sea NGO Network short-listed good NGO projects. June 2006: Detailed NGO proposals were evaluated by representatives from the BS Commission Secretariat, the BSERP and the BSNN.

| Type of Activity | Countries (#Projects) | Amount, USD | % |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|------|
| Reduction of pollution | 7 | 56,080 | 19% |
| Trans-boundary and/or national problems | 5 | 46,708 | 15% |
| Public awareness | 6 | 59,172 | 20% |
| Flow of information to public | 5 | 41,180 | 14% |
| Public involvement | 12 | 99,448 | 33% |
| Total | 35 | 302,588 | 100% |

Model project: The Turkish NGO *Zonguldak* developed a theatre play "**We Black Sea**" on the impact of water pollution. Together with a 5-minute video, it was presented by professional actors 13 times to 3,650 school kids (target was 1500 kids). More performances were arranged even after the end of the GEF project: Until end 2007 already 5000 pupils have seen it. Many **web-pages** established by the NGOs allow the wider public use of grant outputs.

Several long **videos and professional films** on the Black Sea nature and environmental problems were produced and shown in theatres and TV channels.

Initiated **pollution reduction** at point and diffuse sources - Hundreds of farmers were trained in Bulgaria and Turkey on the ecological benefits and economic aspects of organic farming.

Model project: Two Bulgarian projects addressed agricultural pollution by strongly promoting organic farming. They informed over *20,000 agricultural producers and consumers, trained 2,200 farmers* (e.g. on GAP manure storage) and involved *2200 children* in events and coastal clean up actions. Organic farming and products started to be a topic in local media and an option for coastal communities.

Model project: The Georgian NGO *Eco Academy* prepared and executed the concrete recovery and careful removal of 9 tons of obsolete pesticides from the coast near Batumi to a safe storage site.

