



Partners for Environmental Cooperation in Europe (PECE)
Networking Event 27th September 2005

Project Concepts

The following project concepts have been submitted by organisations interested in securing additional partners and/or funding. Contact details are provided and representatives of each organisation are expected to attend the PECE event on 27th September.

1. 'Global warming: is there a better way?' – Equip Trust
2. 'Developing a biodiversity module for the secondary school curriculum in Belarus' – RSPB
3. 'Promoting community-based mobile livestock grazing for improved biodiversity and livelihoods' - Macaulay Institute
4. University for Peace
 - a) A joint project by PRO-NATURA USA and the University for Peace to conduct a feasibility study for a Caucasus Peace Park, a transboundary conservation area.
 - b) International Facilitation on Water Resources Cooperation in Central Asia
 - c) Water Resources Management in Central Asia - Capacity Building and Knowledge Dissemination for Conflict Prevention
5. 'Greening the European Neighbourhood Policy' – WWF

1. Global warming: is there a better way?

The major focus for action on global warming appears to be to negotiate international agreements to reduce fossil fuel consumption. These appear to be difficult to achieve and doubtful in their effectiveness. As China and India become more affluent, their fossil fuel use appears bound to expand regardless of government promises. Other approaches are needed.

The action of sunlight on vegetation is a major means for absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Good management of pasture land with cattle can provide a 14% increase in vegetation each year as the quality of soil and pasture improves. However if all the world's pasture land was managed that well, my rough calculations indicate it would only absorb 4% of the world's fossil fuel emissions. It is clear the world is not putting itself right with increased vegetation or we would notice it.

The work of the Macaulay Institute in Kazakhstan, featured in 'Prospects for Pastoralism in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan: From state farms to private flocks' edited by Carol Kerven, Routledge 2003, showed how improved land use could increase vegetation and supportable livestock numbers.

"Extensive livestock production based on seasonal movement remains the most efficient way of exploiting the natural resources of Kazak rangelands. Greater concentration of animals around settlements and water, stemming from a loss of mobility, is having localised damaging effects on pasture productivity" (I. Alimaev, in PP p.31-32).

Work by the Allan Savory Center, reported by their farmers from Nevada to Australia indicates how pasture land can be reclaimed and enriched using animals. In one case the annual improvement in vegetation achieved per steer was 652kgs. This absorbs the carbon dioxide from 222 litres of fuel each year. A tax of 10c per litre would provide \$22 per annum, or sufficient to finance a loan for the purchase a calf.

It would appear that by financing herds and flocks in 3rd world countries and by grazing them nomadically a contribution could be made to absorbing global carbon dioxide. At the same time poverty and unemployment would be reduced and desertification reversed. The limiting factor appears to be the very low percentage of rain (0.008%) which can be captured and turned into vegetation by pasture. Can improved species, soil improvement or genetic modification improve this percentage?

Developed countries could gain a benefit too from such a vast project. It can be argued that pension funds underperform because the return on capital is too low. Too much capital is available so the rates of return are low and getting lower. A large bond issue would benefit the developed world if the interest were paid by a carbon tax.

At present global warming is a long way down the list of priorities for most countries because action is not in their national interest. Can it be linked to the reverse of poverty and desertification and the funding of pensions so that there are benefits for a wide range of countries? Would the emerging technologies developed for optimising carbon capture and monitoring the global projects be sufficient to interest USA and developed countries?

What are the other actions in forests, oceans and husbandry which can benefit the poor, stimulate economies, and reverse global warming?

Contact

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2. Developing a biodiversity module for the secondary school curriculum in Belarus

Project concept

Under Article 13 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Belarus has an obligation to explain the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biological diversity in educational programs; and to co-operate, as appropriate, with other states and international organisations in developing educational and public awareness programs.

Recently, professional educationalists within the Belarusian State University, conservationists in BirdLife Belarus and officials within the Belarusian Ministry of Education and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have recognised that young Belarusians are not aware either of the national and international value of their biodiversity, or of their responsibility to manage it as agreed under the CBD. Professional teacher trainers in Belarus have suggested that the most efficient way of improving this situation would be to teach biodiversity at secondary schools.

The following progress has been made towards this end. UNDP funded a workshop, facilitated by experts from the RSPB, to develop a dialogue between relevant interest groups (conservationists, educators, decision-makers) and identify a clear vision of what a biodiversity module should look like. The workshop resulted in the production of a curriculum for the biodiversity module and a project proposal for the development of this module. Following the workshop, the RSPB funded a project coordinated by BirdLife Belarus that produced a complete curriculum. This curriculum has been accepted by the Belarusian Ministry of Education.

The Ministry now requires technical and financial assistance with the final production of the module and its dissemination to secondary schools, and with raising the capacity of teachers to teach the module. This 3-year project will provide this assistance by producing teaching material (textbook, teacher's guide, educational posters and films), testing and adapting the module during a one-year experimental stage, developing and implementing a teacher training course, and promoting the implementation of the module in all schools.

The project will enable the Ministry of Education to offer the biodiversity module to all of the approximately 3,000 secondary schools in Belarus. The schools that specialise in biology (about 350) are most likely to be running the module by the end of the project. In each of these schools, we expect that one to two classes of 20 students will choose to take the module. Therefore, by the end of the project, at least 10,000 and possibly 14,000 students in Grade 8 will be taught the module each year.

Project partners

At present, the project partners are the RSPB, BirdLife Belarus, the Belarus Ministry of Education and UNDP in Belarus.

Project budget

The total cost of the project will be approximately £100,000. Co-funding of £50,000 has been secured from UNDP (£33,000), the RSPB (£14,000) and the Belarus Ministry of Education (£3,000).

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3. Promoting community-based mobile livestock grazing for improved biodiversity and livelihoods

The Macaulay Institute wish to identify potential partners to develop a project to conserve rangeland biodiversity while promoting improved livelihoods for livestock managers in the rangelands of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

The rangelands comprise the great majority of land area in most of the Republics, and are subject to new threats of overgrazing and consequent degradation and desertification, as livestock managers have had to adapt to the collapse of the Soviet Union. The rangelands of the deserts and steppes are the traditional grazing areas of Central Asian pastoralists; these areas are also the source of mineral extraction by oil and gas companies. The challenge is to conserve the unique rangeland biodiversity while promoting improved livelihoods for pastoralists who are solely dependent on these ranges. Sustainable systems of livestock management are required. Lack of access to water for livestock is one of the crucial constraints we have identified. A partnership project could be designed to include local NGOs working in the rangelands, UK oil and gas companies, and development researchers.

This is an issue which the Macaulay Institute have been working on for about eight years, in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. It completed a DFID-funded research and policy project on this from 1997-2000. It then obtained a larger grant from the European Union to continue and deepen the work from 2000-2004. This latter project was "Desertification and regeneration: Impacts of market reforms on Central Asian rangelands", headed by Macaulay Institute. Its work has involved close collaboration with Kazakh and Turkmen government scientists and policy-makers as well as other EU country researchers.

Most of its work in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan has been research rather than development. However, it now feels that, though many research issues remain, it knows enough to be able to design some practical on-the-ground projects.

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4. University for Peace

The University for Peace wishes to identify potential partners for the following projects in Central Asia:

a) A joint project by PRO-NATURA USA and the University for Peace to conduct a feasibility study for a Caucasus Peace Park, a transboundary conservation area (details at <http://www.pece.co.uk/en/projects/opps/peacepark.pdf>)

b) International Facilitation on Water Resources Cooperation in Central Asia

c) Water Resources Management in Central Asia - Capacity Building and Knowledge Dissemination for Conflict Prevention

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5. 'Greening the European Neighbourhood Policy' – WWF

Background

The enlargement of the European Union (EU) signifies major changes in relation to the EU external borders and external relations. The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), prepared in parallel to the final phases of enlargement, will restructure and refocus EU relations with the new neighbour countries (NC) to the East and South, Euro-Med Partnership countries and Libya.

The European Commission's Communication "Wider Europe" at the end of March 2003 presented the ENP objectives: "...to share the benefits of the EU's 2004 enlargement with NC in strengthening stability, security and well being for all concerned. It is designed to prevent the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours and to offer them the chance to participate in various EU activities, through greater political, security, economic and cultural co-operation."

The European Security Strategy, also highlights its importance stating it is the EU's task is to "...make a particular contribution to stability and good governance in our immediate neighbourhood [and] to promote a ring of well governed countries to the East of the European Union and on the borders of the Mediterranean with whom we can enjoy close and cooperative relations."

ENP will become operational through jointly agreed Action Plans (AP) covering: political dialogue and reform; trade and measures preparing partners for gradually obtaining a stake in the EU's Internal Market; justice and home affairs; energy, transport, information society, environment and research and innovation; social policy and people-to-people contacts.

From 2007 the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) will support cross border co-operation, regional co-operation between MSs and NCs, and both regional and cross-border co-operation among NCs. The Commission has proposed significant funding increase to approximately €15 billion for the period 2007-2013, as an incentive for economic and political reform within the NCs.

Some Action Plans have been adopted, others remain under negotiation. The proposal by the Commission of the Regulation on the ENPI is under discussion by the Council and the Parliament. The main ENP implementing tools will be defined and put in place during the years 2005-2006.

Environmental Integration

The preparatory talks on the ENP include environmental integration which should apply to:

- Environmental governance : improve capacity of stakeholders to deal with environment and sustainable development matters;
- National environmental policies and tools on key sectors (energy, transport, etc);
- Implementation of environmental commitments at international and regional level; and
- Implementation of EU international initiatives (e.g. EU Water Initiative, EU Marine Strategy).

Security is also high on the agenda and should incorporate the links between regional conflicts, unsustainable management of natural resources and lack of good governance.

The Opportunity

NC countries contain many important ecoregions under serious threat due to overexploitation of natural resources (water, forests, fisheries, oil and gas) and unsustainable development of economic activities (energy, transportation, over fishing, water infrastructures, tourism, industrial development, etc).

ENP preparatory process and further implementation brings major opportunities to foster civil society participation in countries which have no such tradition and to focus on the link

between security, stability, good governance and natural resource management. It also brings the challenge of achieving more coherence among different EU internal policies (environment, trade, agriculture etc) and the implementation and verification of the new policies and instruments for external relations. In response, WWF and Hbf are working in partnership to develop the '**Greening the ENP**' project.

Project Goal

The project aims to enable civil society participation, promote sustainable development and environmental integration, foster good governance, and project co-operation both between the EU member states and our neighbours, and among them.

Project Objectives

- To ensure the new EU political and financial framework fully incorporates and ensures proper implementation of measures aiming for sustainable development, environmental protection and public participation;
- To ensure national and regional support for implementation of environmental governance and programmes as reflected in the Association and Partnership Agreements, Country Action Plans and Programmes.
- To promote involvement of NC in initiatives supporting environmental protection and sustainable use of energy, freshwater, marine and forest resources.
- To promote local governance and NGOs' full participation in the national and regional policy processes.
- To establish the links between regional conflicts, unsustainable management of natural resources, and lack of good governance.

Outcome

Selected country and regional (transboundary) agreements and implementation programmes include clear objectives and activities addressing the environment, including the protection and sustainable use of natural resources, identified as priority investments by key NGOs.

Approach

The project will combine work at three different levels:

- Policy development and implementation supported by communication work when appropriate – targeted at EU institutions (the Commission, the Parliament, and the European Council), Member States, NC countries, European and NC public.
- Assessment of existing policies and instruments alongside environmental threats and possible solutions in order to define specific policy proposals on thematic/regional and national levels -targeted at European Institutions and NC officials.
- Capacity building to strengthen local institutions – targeted at civil society organisations and NGOs as defined by the assessment undertaken during the inception phase.

Outputs

- ENPI Regulation and its implementing rules (to be adopted in 2006) ensure effective support for sustainable development, environmental protection and democracy, and prevent negative environmental and social impacts. Thematic programmes addressing specific environmental and social challenges are established under the framework of the ENPI.
- Enhanced civil society capacity at the National Level to engage and influence the ENP process and increased public participation in the development and implementation of National Action Plans. Programming Tools (Country Strategy Papers, Indicative Programmes) include clear objectives and activities addressing the environment, security and democracy.
- Environmental Governance at regional and sub-regional level leading to the establishment/reinforcement of NGO Networks that promote regional initiatives and

ensure that ENP regional programmes on environment, security and democracy are established and operational.

Time frame and Budget

The project will be implemented over 2-3 years: an inception period (April-September 2005) will fully assess and define the project activities required to respond to local needs; Phase 1 will focus on influencing the policy process at national, regional and international levels until the ENP becomes operational; Phase 2 tackles policy implementation and a smooth transition to NC ownership.

WWF and Hbf will provide the resources for the inception phase during which they will seek indications of funding and support for the project.

Existing Capacity and Governance

The project will build on the existing expertise, presences and partnerships of WWF and Hbf in Brussels, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Israel and involve WWF experts on forest, freshwater, marine and energy.

Wider partners will be sought at regional, national and international levels, including a broad network of national NGOs in the relevant NCs, and a representative Steering Group will be established.

Key Project Activities

Timeline	Key Activities
Inception Phase April-Sep 05	Policy assessment at regional, national and EU level Project development including partner identification Budget development and donor identification
Phase 1 Influencing policy and capacity building Autumn 05-2007 (following EU agenda)	Public conference and seminar in Brussels for NC partners (to promote debate, highlight NC issues, begin capacity building and promote contacts and dialogue with EC) Lobbying European institutions on environmental integration and public participation Sectorial Assessments (forest, freshwater, marine and energy) for lobbying EU National Assessments (environment and civil society participation, key environmental priorities, governance, security and sustainable development) for national lobbying Capacity build NC communication, advocacy and lobbying skills (engage civil society) European Parliament hearing prior to adoption of ENP regulation where NC partners will present their results and receive further capacity building/dialogue opportunities Consolidate NC capacity for implementation of Action Plans: feedback to NGO network, inform general public and promote ongoing dialogue with national administrations Project evaluation and reporting
Phase 2 Implementation and transition to NC ownership (and mainstream funding into ENPI) 2007 -	6 month assessment of ENP implementation, work done to date, local capacity and involvement in each NC Development (with NC partners) of activities for final phase, to include: regular meetings with NC administration and relevant EU contacts, local NGO seminars and regional consultation Manage transition to ensure policy implementation and ongoing policy work is fully integrated into the role of local organisations, funded through the ENPI

A full project concept or further information is available from Mandy Thomas, Programme Development Officer, WWF International:

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