Optimization of the use of the resources of the Natura 2000 network for sustainable development in the Polish Carpathians

project submitted to the European Economic Area and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms by:

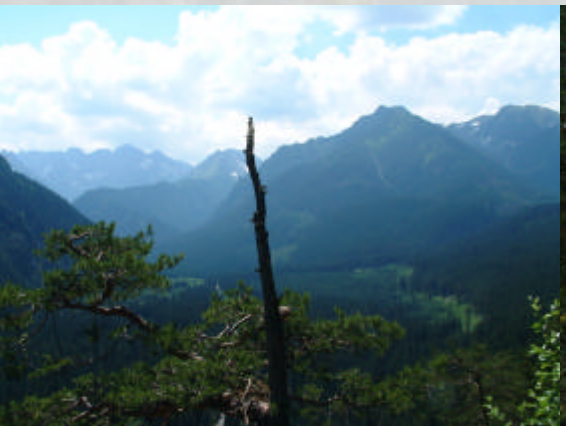
Institute of Nature Conservation
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INC PAS, Krakow, Poland

Main goal: Operationalising the Natura 2000 Network in the Polish Carpathians.

1. **Involving local communities and all interest groups in development of the Natura 2000 network in Polish Carpathians**
2. **Promotion of the Natura 2000 network idea at the local level**
3. **Establishment of a cooperation network for the Natura 2000 site managers in the Polish Carpathians**
4. **Promotion of the environmental, tourism, and economic values of the Polish Carpathians**
5. **Conservation actions to improve the status of the most valuable natural habitats and species in selected areas in the Polish Carpathians**





Project partners :

Malopolskie Voivodship Office in Krakow (Voivodeship Nature Conservator)

Podkarpackie Voivodship Office in Rzeszow (Voivodeship Nature Conservator)

Regional Direction of State Forests in Krakow

Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)

Department of Environmental Education, IES Jagiellonian University

Institute of Nature Conservation PAS

Babia Góra National Park

Gorce National Park

Bieszczady National Park

Complex of Carpathian Natural Landscape Parks

Nowy Targ Forest District

Lipnica Wielka Municipality

Center for the Natural Heritage of Upper Silesia in Katowice

Friends of Babia Góra Mount Association

Museum Orawa Ethnographic Park at Zubrzyca Górna

Project budget:



Total costs of the project: **950 000 €** (2007-2011)

Cash inflow:	Cash outflow:	
950 000 €	Labour	505 900 €
	Services	150 475 €
	Equipment	20 500 €
	Administrative costs	38 000 €
	Business travels	153 575 €
	Consumables	81 550 €

Financial resources:

EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanism: **807 500 €** (85% of the project costs)

National co-financing: **142 500 €** (15% of the project costs)

INC PAS, local governments (Malopolskie and Podkarpackie Provinces, of Voivodship Nature Conservators), possibly grants from the National Fund for Environment Protection and Water Management

Basic tasks of the project:



1. Preparation of management strategies for
   23 designated Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
   and 3 existing Special Protection Areas (SPA) in the Polish Carpathians.

2. Conservation action programmes (for mountain meadows, peat-bogs, forests, and large carnivores).

3. Developoment of educational programmes promoting nature conservation at the local level, mainly targetted on schools and local communities.

4. Establishment of an integrated information system about the Natura 2000 network in the Carpathians.

5. Performance of a GAP analysis of the Natura 2000 network in the Carpathians and preparation of a regional strategy for management of this network.

6. Dissemination and promotion of project achievements.

A. Project initiation activities – 9400 €

Coordination: INC PAS, Steering Committee

A1. Project intitiation conference

A2. Thematic group meetings





B. Developing management strategies for the 23 Natura 2000 sites in the Polish Carpathians – 280 000 €

Coordination: INC PAS, Strategy coordinators



B1. Management strategies for the 5 Natura 2000 sites in Slaskie Province

B2. Management strategies for the 14 Natura 2000 sites in Malopolska Province

B3. Management strategies for the 4 Natura 2000 sites in Podkarpackie Province







C. Conservation actions – 233 600 €

Coordination: INC PAS, National Parks representatives, Nowy Targ Forest District

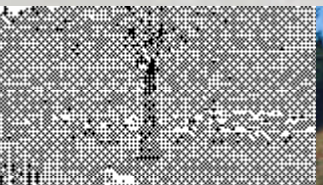
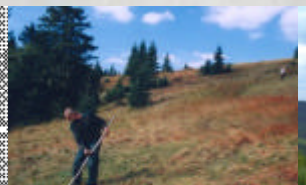
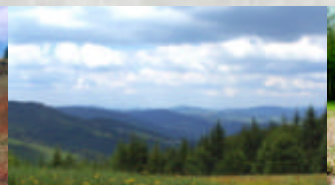
C1. Large carnivore damage prevention measures in Bieszczady mountains

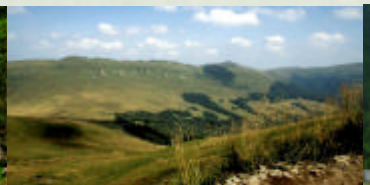
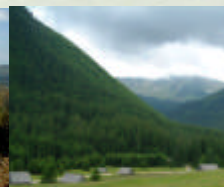
C2. Conservation actions in Bieszczadzki National Park

C3. Conservation actions in raised peat bogs in the Nowy Targ Forest District

C4. Conservation actions in Babiogórski National Park

C5. Conservation actions in Gorczanski National Park

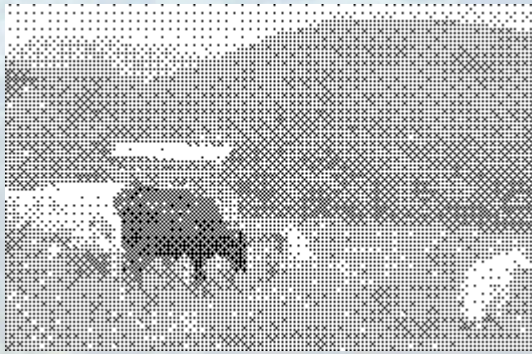



C. Conservation actions



C1. **Large carnivores damage prevention measures** – INC PAS, subcontracted experts.





C. Conservation actions



C2. Conservation actions in **Bieszczadzki National Park** (**conservation of meadows and raised peat-bogs**)





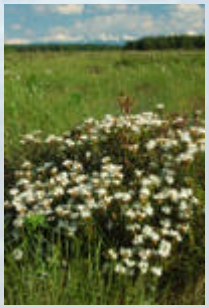
C. Conservation actions



C3. Active conservation of **the raised peat bogs in Nowy Targ Forest District (bush removal and improvement of water retention)**









C. Conservation actions



C4. Conservation actions in **Babiogórski National Park** (**activities for forest protection – conservation of rare species and restoration of natural species, conservation of mountain meadows by mowing and bush removal**)





C. Conservation actions



C5. Conservation actions in **Gorczanski National Park** (**conservation of fresh meadows and meadows on forest clearings by their mowing and bush removal**)







D. Education programmes – 122 000 €

Coordination: Institute of Environmental Sciences UJ, INC PAS

Participants: 4 target municipalities, Orawa Ethnographic Park, Friends of Babia Góra Mountain Association

D1. Assessment of environmental awareness levels and education needs

D2. Design of education programmes and activities for the local communities

D3. Training for school teachers in selected municipalities in the Carpathians

D4. Locally implemented education programme in Lipnica Wielka, Jablonka, Zawoja and Komancza municipalities





E. Integrated information system about the Natura 2000 network in the Polish Carpathians – 67 000 €

Coordination: INC PAS, NINA



E1. Development of database and data processing methodology



E2. Data collection, processing and analysis

E3. Maintenance and updating of the Natura 2000 information system

E4. Operation of the project website





F. Analysis of the Natura 2000 network – 80 000 €

Coordination: INC PAS, NINA

GIS based analyses
- GAP
- Connectivity
- Redundancy
- Test of flagship species concepts

Balancing use with conservation
- Social economics
- Cultural value
- Tourism
- Infrastructure and land use

Development of an integrated, holistic and regional strategy for sustainable development in the Polish Carpathians (Natura 2000 sites + matrix).

G. Communication activities – 38 000 €

Coordination: Institute of Environmental Sciences UJ, INC PAS

Participants: Lipnica Wielka Commune, Museum Orawa Ethnographic Park, Friends of Babia Góra Mount Association, National and Landscape Parks, Nowy Targ Forest District



G1. Brochures and materials promoting sustainable development in the Natura 2000 sites

G2. Book and website presenting project results

G3. International conference summarising project results



G4. Local presentations promoting project results

H. Coordination – 82 000 €
I. Administrative costs – 38 000 €

Coordination: INC PAS



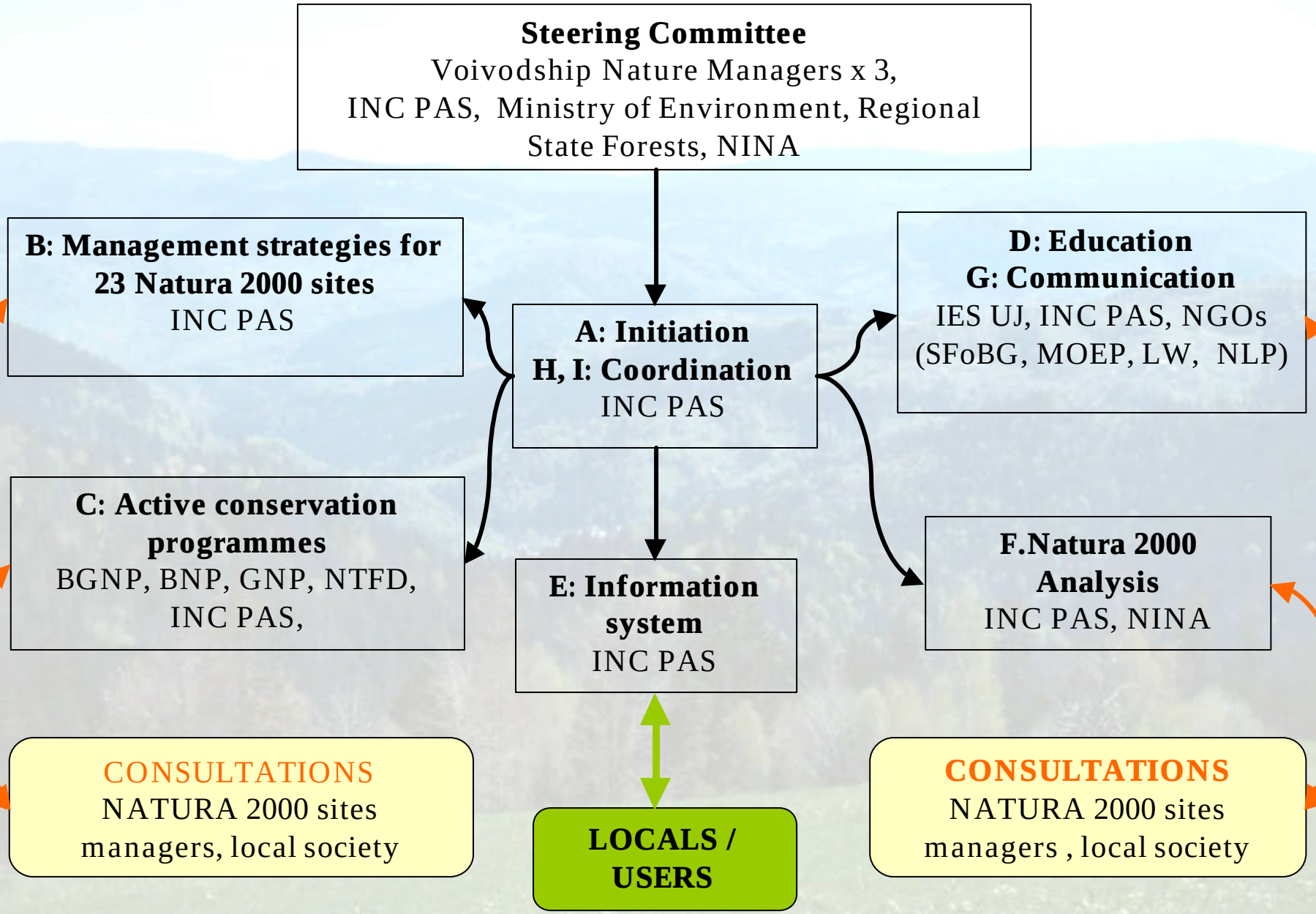
H1. Office maintenance; personel costs

H2. Monitoring of project results and dissemination

H3. Reporting



COORDINATION SCHEME



Project's legal framework

The project will support Poland's implementation of the following international agreements:

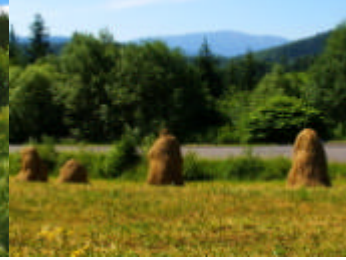
- Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive, 92/43/EEC)
- Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive, 79/409/EEC).
- Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 1992)
- Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979)
- Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental matters (Aarhus, 1998).

The project will also support the implementation of the "Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians" in Poland (signed in November 2003).

All procedures related to selection of external contractors and procurement will be performed by procedures compatible with the Public Procurement Law of 29 January 2004 (Polish OJ No. 19, item 177).

Risks and risk management





Possible threats to the project's success:

1. Difficulties with access to information resources from other institutions or organizations

   ? Material cooperation with institutions and organizations in possession of data.

2. Difficulties with establishment of cooperation with local governments and institutions supervising the Natura 2000 sites

   ? Planning with the participation of the public and local authorities, educational and awareness raising activities.

3. Lack of approved long-term plans for national park conservation

   ? Close cooperation with the NP Directors (partners to the project). The choice of activities has been developed by the NP, in line with the existing drafts management plans.

4. Legislation changes concerning the Natura 2000 network in Poland

   ? Close cooperation with the Environment Protection Department of the Ministry of the Environment and Voivodship Nature Managers.

Cross-cutting issues





1. Sustainable development

a) Environment

Detailed inventory of the natural resources and biodiversity of the Polish Carpathian Natura 2000 sites.

Active conservation actions in selected areas

Integrated information system on N2000 resources in the Carpathians

b) Economic

Natura 2000 Database ? support for planning and decision-making processes

c) Social

Natura 2000 sites as a tool for social activation

Promotion of sustainable development and resource management concepts

Awareness raising

Public involvement and participatory approach

Cross-cutting issues





2. Gender equality

Female preference given equal qualifications

Equal remuneration rates

3. Good governance

Integrating governance at different scales? control over phases of project implementation

Steering Committee and annual meetings

Working meetings and consultations

Annual reporting cycle

4. Bilateral relations

Poland – Norway (INC PAS ↔ NINA)

Transboundary study areas – consultations with Slovakian and Ukrainian experts

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Institute of Nature Conservation PAS in Krakow, Poland

Thank you ☺