

Romania



Name of NGO:
Pagan Snow Cap Microregional Association

The mission of the Pagan Snow Cap Microregional Association is to improve the quality of life of locals by respecting natural values and traditions.

Vision

The people in the region receive more income thanks to actions based on local resources. By informing, educating people and by fellowship actions (kaláka spirit) our community is happy with it's situation. We wish to become a model region where people live in harmony with nature and tourists visit us to experience this kind of lifestyle.

Values

- Environment: nature, village character, built heritage, order, variety, harmony, purity;
- Tradition: religion, culture, local products, husbandry, cultivated landscape, eatables, handicrafts;
- Community: humane, harmony, responsibility, hospitality, community participation;
- Quality of life: economy, sustainability, openness/innovativeness, development, holistic point of view.

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Mountain hay meadows - hot spots of biodiversity and traditional culture

Objective:

The objective of the project is that farmers from Csík and Gyimes realize, that the farming they practice is not only important from the point of view of earning a living, but it is also this farming that ensures the sustainability of the landscape, which is of great value to the urban population as well as to the whole of Europe. Its value lies in its aesthetic beauty and the biodiversity created by traditional farming; a wide variety of plants and animals are present on the meadows and grasslands. These can only be preserved through continuing traditional farming, which also plays an important role in ensuring the living of farmers, the elimination of poverty, and maintaining the ability of the rural world to sustain its inhabitants.

Location:

1. Delne (Pálfalva commune)
2. Hidegségpataka (Gyimesközéplak)

Timeline:

2009. 1st of September 2011. 1st of March

Main objectives:

- To create a database on hay meadow biodiversity
- To create integrated management plans for two sites
- To create benefits for landowners from biodiversity and sustainable land use

Activities:

- Creating a workgroup, where everyone concerned will be represented; local population, researchers, institutions involved.
- Conducting research in cooperation with Hungarian, English and local experts, and at least 30 university students. Integrating project results in local school curricula and outdoor activities
- Organizing a one-week summer camp next year in Gyimesközéplak, where the results of the research will be presented, and which will also provide opportunity for exchange of knowledge and best practices.
- consulting local farmers about land use at the two locations



- Compiling management plans and best practices guide
- Proposing sites to be included in the Natura 2000 network.
- Increasing income from milk production (e.g. cheese making training course, purchase of equipment to meet milk quality standards)
- Organizing an international conference on biodiversity, traditional farming and related European policies to promote 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity.
- Creating environmental education trails in the Torda valley, in Delne.

About us, sponsors and partners

- Pogány-havas (Pagan Snow Cap) Microregion Association was founded in 1999 by Harghita County Council. Its founding members are the local councils of the seven municipalities as well as local NGOs and entrepreneurs. These entities work together to form common goals, expand the local economy and develop tourism. The association's office is in Csíksomlyó. We work on a range of projects to increase local incomes, preserve the region's cultural heritage, and conserve the natural environment. www.poganyhavas.ro
- Barbara Knowles Fund supports projects to research, understand and protect the natural treasures of Transylvania. www.treasuresoftransylvania.org
- Environmental Protection Agency Harghita is a state financed legal entity. It serves the general public of Harghita County. EPA Harghita is charged with protecting the environment and the important nature areas of Harghita County. <http://www.apmhr.ro>
- European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism is a Europe-wide network which raises awareness of the importance of low-intensity farming for nature conservation and aims to improve the way public policies respond to the needs of these farming systems. It is a leader in the campaign for preserving High Nature value landscapes. www.efncp.org
- European Commission (DG Environment). http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/environment/index_en.htm
- Fundatia ADEPT is protecting the rich biodiversity of Transylvania and using it to benefit local communities. www.fundatia-adept.org
- Harghita County Council www.harghitacounty.ro
- Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania www.csik.sapientia.ro/

- UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme aims to deliver global environmental benefits in the focal areas of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, protection of international waters, prevention of land degradation, and elimination of persistent organic pollutants through community-based approaches.

<http://sgp.undp.org>

