



## Maramures Nature Park

Maramures is a valuable and well-known natural and cultural landscape that boasts a wealth of biodiversity. Productive uses of forestry predominate and non-consumptive uses of the forest, such as eco-tourism are growing rapidly. Unfortunately, this opportunity may turn into a threat when abused in a natural protected area. The region is also experiencing high unemployment rate as well as lack of sustainable alternatives to mining and wood harvesting that may lead to destroying eco-systems through excessive tree cutting, poaching and overgrazing.



In light of the current situation, UNDP with financial support from GEF will develop a framework for economic growth and environmental protection of this unique area. The “Maramures Nature Park” project also benefits greatly from the active support of Maramures Biodiversity Consortium, a consensus-based stakeholder group composed of the representatives of local authorities, as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGO). The project seeks to balance conservation priorities with socio-economic growth by introducing sustainable park management practices and demonstrating effective biodiversity conservation therein.

On 15 July 2005, a new UNDP/GEF (United Nations Development Programme/Global Environment Facility) initiative Maramures Nature Park was launched in Baia Sprie, Maramures, in the presence of Mr. Kalman Mizsei, United Nations (UN) Assistant Secretary-General/UNDP Regional Director for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (RBEC); Ms. Soknan Han Jung, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative; Ms. Böondi Gyöngyke, Prefect; Mr. Marinel Covacs, President of County Council and the mass media.

By helping local communities develop sustainable resource management strategies, strengthening the institutional framework for biodiversity conservation at the national level, and improving the protection and management of the region’s six core reserves, the project will lead to environmental, economic and social growth in Maramures while preserving the valuable and unique traditions. “The project’s innovative public-private, community-NGO-Government partnership is one such practice. Demonstrating this partnership as a viable option for protected area management and biodiversity conservation constitutes the project’s strategic approach to securing the sustainable long-term conservation of biodiversity in these mountains” said Mr. Mizsei.



Traditions



Preserved in



Maramures

“Many of you who work and live in this area may take its beautiful landscapes, its rich forests, waters, flora and fauna for granted, as they were always here around you. Unfortunately they are not going to remain unspoiled if local residents do not protect and conserve them for their own benefit as well as that of future generations” said Ms Jung in her opening remarks. For more information please contact UNDP Romania [environnement@undp.ro](mailto:environnement@undp.ro)